Proclamation

Whereas, in 2004, Robin Abel, a Renton resident, began her campaign to bring awareness to the danger of improperly secured loads in vehicles after her daughter was severely injured by debris from an unsecured load; and

Whereas, in 2005, due to the tireless efforts of Robin Abel, Washington legislators adopted what has been called "Maria’s Law," which makes it a misdemeanor and criminal negligence if all or part of a load shifts or falls and causes substantial bodily harm to another; and

Whereas, in 2015, President Obama signed a five-year National Transportation bill that included what Abel called “her paragraph,” which pointed out the dangers of unsecured loads and encouragement for states to address the issue; and

Whereas, according to a recent study by the AAA Foundation for Safety, more than 200,000 crashes in the past four years were caused by road debris, plus road debris resulted in approximately 39,000 injuries and 500 deaths between 2011 and 2014; and

Whereas, we recognize the profound suffering and loss of those harmed by unsecured loads, and stand with those critically impacted by such instances of avoidable tragedy;

Whereas, all drivers must recognize their responsibility to make safe and considerate choices while driving, and driving with an unsecured load presents danger to the travelling public; and

Whereas, the simple, routine act of securely affixing every load makes our roads safer for all drivers, and these precautions should not be overlooked;

Now, therefore, I, Denis Law, Mayor of the City of Renton, do hereby proclaim June 6-12, 2018, to be

Secure Your Load Week

in the City of Renton, and I encourage all citizens to give serious consideration to their safety and the safety of others when transporting materials in their vehicle on our roadways.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Renton to be affixed this 4th day of June, 2018.

Denis Law, Mayor
City of Renton, Washington