

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, authorizing the military to forcibly remove and incarcerate more than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast, including 9,600 Japanese-American residents of the Seattle; and

WHEREAS, the first Civilian Evacuation Order gave Japanese-Americans from Seattle and the surrounding communities less than one week to leave behind homes, farms, businesses, friends, and family and to report to detention centers, such as Camp Harmony on the grounds of the Western Washington Fair in Puyallup; and

WHEREAS, in December 1982, the Congressional Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians found "no military or security reason for the internment" of persons of Japanese ancestry, but determined it "was caused by racial prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership"; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this racially motivated travesty of justice, Japanese-Americans suffered immense economic loss of property and assets, immeasurable physical and psychological harm, and were deprived of their constitutional liberties without due process of law and Seattle's once-thriving Nihonmachi (or Japantown) was left deserted; and

WHEREAS, since their arrival to the Pacific Northwest in the 1880s, Japanese immigrants contributed immensely to Seattle's strong economy and vibrant culture, working in the railroad industry, mercantile businesses, and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, on February 19, 1976, President Gerald Ford rescinded Executive Order 9066 calling upon the American people to "resolve that this kind of action shall never again be repeated"; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 1986 and on September 24, 1987, the Federal District Court of Washington State and the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit respectively overturned the convictions of Seattle resident and University of Washington graduate Japanese-American Gordon Hirabayashi who was wrongfully imprisoned after openly defying the curfews enforced by Executive Order 9066 and who was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of freedom by President Barack Obama for his principled stand against Japanese-American Internment; and

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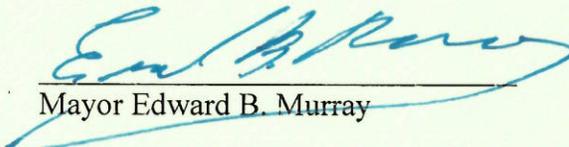
awarded the Presidential Medal of freedom by President Barack Obama for his principled stand against Japanese-American Internment; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 1943, the War Department organized a segregated unit of Japanese-Americans, many of whom reported for military duty from internment camps surrounded by barbed wire in which they and their families were detained; and

WHEREAS, despite being demanded to renounce their allegiance to the emperor of Japan while other ethnic groups were not asked about adherence to foreign leaders, more than 12,000 Japanese-American volunteers amassed a battle record unparalleled in United States military history that, according to General Douglas MacArthur's chief of intelligence, "saved a million lives and shortened the war by two years";

NOW, THEREFORE I, EDWARD B. MURRAY, MAYOR OF SEATTLE, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM FEBRUARY, 19, 2016 TO BE

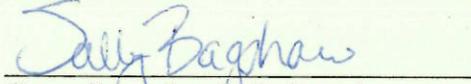
Day of Remembrance



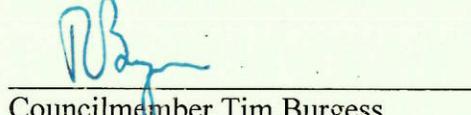
Mayor Edward B. Murray



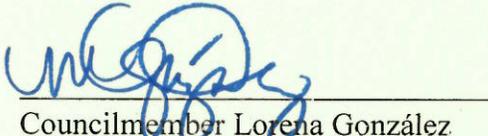
Council President Bruce Harrell



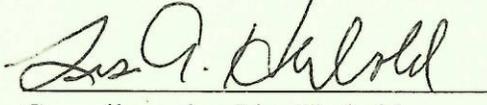
Councilmember Sally Bagshaw



Councilmember Tim Burgess



Councilmember Lorena González



Councilmember Lisa Herbold

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Rob Johnson

Councilmember Rob Johnson

Debara Juarez

Councilmember Debara Juarez

Mike O'Brien

Councilmember Mike O'Brien

Kshama Sawant

Councilmember Kshama Sawant

