

PROCLAMATION 2024-05-PT

Honoring William E. Adams

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE: CC-1

WHEREAS, William E. Adams joined the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 23 in Tacoma in 1978 and worked as a longshoreman for 20 years in Tacoma before becoming a marine clerk, and

WHEREAS, Adams became involved in the political life of his local in 1998, serving on Local 23's executive board, as an elected delegate to the ILWU Longshore Division Caucus, a member of the International Executive Board in 2000, and a Trustee of the International Union, and

WHEREAS, in 2018 Adams was elected as the seventh president of the ILWU and the first black president in its history, and

WHEREAS, Adams has also been active in the Tacoma community, producing "Celebrations of Black History and Labor" programs in Tacoma on seven separate occasions, featuring leading cultural and political figures including Danny Glover, Paul Robeson, Jr., Yolanda King, hip hop icon Chuck D and Betty Shabazz and that these programs have received national attention and critical acclaim, and

WHEREAS, Adams also has been the executive producer for several documentary films, including one about the life of African American writer Langston Hughes, "Hughes' Dream Harlem," and "The Black Composers," about African American film score composers, and

WHEREAS, Adams has received the City of Tacoma's Destiny Award and the Paul Robeson Peace and Justice Award from Mothers for Police Accountability in Seattle, Washington, for his service to the community, and

WHEREAS, he will retire this year after forty-five years of being a member of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union

NOW, THEREFORE, the Port of Tacoma honors William E. Adams for his many years of service to the working waterfront, Tacoma and the surrounding community and the civil rights cause.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the Port of Tacoma on this 18th day of June in the year two thousand and twenty-four.

Kristin Ang, President
Port of Tacoma Commission

Dick Marzano, Secretary
Port of Tacoma Commission