

PROCLAMATION 2024-01-PT

Recognizing National Black History Month

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE: OS-5 and OS-6

WHEREAS, the Port of Tacoma has adopted a Diversity and Inclusion Policy which declares the Port respects and values the rich diversity of its employees, customers, contractors and stakeholders and that it is committed to a work environment that is inclusive and values diverse thought and expression in pursuit of the organization's mission and is committed to provide a workplace environment that is free from all forms of discrimination and harassment; and

WHEREAS, Port of Tacoma Resolution 2020-06 identifies diversity, equity, and inclusion as core values that the Port of Tacoma shall incorporate into its Strategic Plan and into Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Tacoma acknowledges and deplores the history of systemic racism in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Port of Tacoma Resolution 2020-06 adopts the following guiding principles as the basis for the Port of Tacoma's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives: undoing and understanding the history of racism, embracing differences, and developing leadership; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2021, the Port of Tacoma Commission approved a new strategic plan, which contained strategies calling on the Port to integrate the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as health and safety, into the Port's culture and decision-making framework; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month grew out of the establishment, in 1926, of Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, President Gerald Ford issued the first Black History Month proclamation, calling upon the Americans to celebrate this observance each February; and

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development; and

WHEREAS, from the Revolutionary War through the abolitionist movement, to marches from Selma to Montgomery and across America today, African Americans have remained steadfast to the proposition that all of us are created equal, even when their own rights were denied; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Black History Month calls our attention to the continued need to battle racism on all levels of our society and build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals.

NOW, THEREFORE: the Port of Tacoma recognizes February 2024, as National Black History Month and calls upon the people of Pierce County to recognize the achievements of the African American community, to celebrate the great diversity of the American people, and to continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful, and prosperous for all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the Port of Tacoma on this **1ST Day of February in the year two-thousand and twenty-four**.

Kristin Ang, President
Port of Tacoma Commission

Dick Marzano, Secretary
Port of Tacoma Commission