



**PROCLAMATION**  
**OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS,** Black lives matter; and

**WHEREAS,** Black History Month was first officially celebrated in the United States in 1976 with the objective to commemorate and honor the achievements of Black Americans and recognize their central role in the history of our nation; and

**WHEREAS,** Black History Month is a powerful reminder that Black history is American history, and throughout our country's history, Black Americans have led the struggle for equity, social justice, and to perfect our democracy; and

**WHEREAS,** Racial oppression is deeply rooted in our nation's early beginnings — from the mass exploitation of Native American populations to the enslavement of Black Americans — and acknowledging this checkered past is essential to healing and creating a more equitable future; and

**WHEREAS,** The Port of Seattle Commission has a responsibility to combat systemic racism and racism in all its nefarious forms, and work to contribute to a more equitable and just world; and

**WHEREAS,** The Century Agenda Goal 5 calls for the Port to “Become a Model for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion;” and

**WHEREAS,** In 2019, the Port established an Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to address institutional racism and increase equity, diversity, and inclusion in Port policies, processes, and programs; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2021, the Port initiated an equity survey and a women of color assessment to better understand the landscape of EDI at the Port of Seattle and form a baseline as the Port works to implement real change; and

**WHEREAS,** The official recognition of the month of February as Black History Month is a significant way that we can celebrate the contributions of our Black employees and communities and work to create a culture of belonging, and a more equitable, anti-racist organization.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Port of Seattle Commission hereby honors and recognizes February as Black History Month; celebrates the contributions of the Port's Chapter of Blacks in Government, acknowledges our history of institutional racism and slavery; demonstrates that Black lives matter; and affirms our commitment to advance racial equity.

Proclaimed by the Port of Seattle Commission this 8 day of February, 2022.

Port of Seattle Commission

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