

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Charles Rolland was born into poverty in Chicago, coming to Seattle to earn an MBA at the University of Washington in 1978; and,

WHEREAS, Charles Rolland founded the Washington State Rainbow Coalition and became State Director for the 1988 presidential campaign of the Rev. Jesse Jackson; and,

WHEREAS, Charles Rolland helped elect Seattle's first and only African American mayor, Norman B. Rice, and served in 1989 as Mayor Rice's Deputy Mayor and Chief of Staff; and,

WHEREAS, Charles Rolland became the first and only African American elected Chairman of the state Democratic Party and served 1993-1995 after tireless campaigning across the state to win; and,

WHEREAS, Charles Rolland ran for Secretary of State in 2000 and although he did not win, continued to lead at the A. Philip Randolph Institute, organizing to extending democracy to those who have traditionally been disenfranchised or discouraged from participating in the political system; and,

WHEREAS, Charles Rolland fostered community dialogue, public and private sector partnerships and policy change as Executive Director of the Black Builders to increase the utilization of small historically and economically disadvantaged construction businesses; and,

WHEREAS, Charles Rolland founded Community and Parents for Public Schools of Seattle, uniting and organizing parents to ensure quality public education for all Seattle children; and,

WHEREAS, Charles Rolland was a recognized African American leader who stood with immigrants and refugees calling for communities to stand together in support of immigrants rights; and,

WHEREAS, Charles Rolland provided critical leadership in 2010 for Mayor Mike McGinn as chair of the community panel to select Seattle's Police Chief; and,

WHEREAS, Charles Rolland was known as a "gentle giant" for his effective and passionate leadership on critical racial and social justice issues while also finding time to coach youth football and volunteer as a Little League umpire, all while lovingly supporting his wife Jacqueline Moscou, and their three children Danielle, Marcus and Sekou Rolland;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael McGinn, Mayor of the City of Seattle, do hereby proclaim March 23, 2012, to be

Charles Rolland Day

in Seattle and urge all to join in honoring his life and work to make our city a better and more just place by promoting equality, social and economic justice, civic engagement, and the basic rights for all children and youth to succeed.



Mike McGinn
Mayor of Seattle

