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# PROCLAMATION

## A PROCLAMATION ACKNOWLEDGING THE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEATTLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

- WHEREAS,** Mayor Gordon Clinton, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Mayor of Seattle, created the Seattle Human Rights Commission (SHRC) in 1963; and
- WHEREAS,** since its establishment, the Seattle Human Rights Commission has been an unwavering advocate for justice and equal opportunity for all residents of the city of Seattle; and
- WHEREAS,** the Commission assisted in the creation of the first draft of the open housing ordinance in 1964 to help resolve racial discrimination with regard to housing opportunities; and
- WHEREAS,** the Commission recommended the City's first non-discriminatory employment regulation leading to the Mayor's executive order prohibiting discriminatory employment practices in City government; and
- WHEREAS,** the Commission was essential to the establishment of the Human Rights Department in 1969, which now serves as the Seattle Office for Civil Rights (SOCR); and
- WHEREAS,** the Commission helped facilitate the resolution of discrimination cases against racial minority workers in the Washington State Ferry System; and
- WHEREAS,** the Commission has worked to improve the communication process between the Seattle Police Department and minority communities beginning with Resolution 28198, which allowed the Seattle Human Rights Commission to monitor and investigate police misconduct and report those issues to the Mayor and City Council; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1994, the SHRC assisted the Human Rights Department in the creation of the Women and Minority Business Enterprise Ordinance, to work towards greater gender and racial equity in the City of Seattle; and
- WHEREAS,** the Commission's efforts were critical to the formation of the Office of Professional Accountability, creating a more open dialogue between the Seattle Police Department and local communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the Commission has been a constant vocal advocate on behalf of homeless residents in Seattle by urging City laws and policies to reflect affordable and adequate housing as a fundamental human right; and

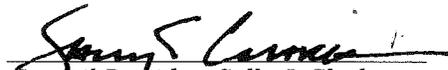
**WHEREAS,** the Commission has collaborated and continues to collaborate with the City of Seattle, the Seattle Police Department, and various community stakeholders to address police accountability concerns; and

**WHEREAS,** the Commission has been fundamental to the appeals process of SOCR complaints, ensuring that every resident in the City is treated equally under the law; and

**WHEREAS,** the Commission promoted the safety, health and welfare of the people of the city of Seattle by lending their support to pass the Paid Sick Time and Paid Safe Time Ordinance, which gives workers in Seattle the ability to take care of their own or their family members' healthcare needs as well as their family's safety needs.

**WHEREAS,** the Commission advocated for a higher standard of public safety, non-discrimination, and racial equity by advising the Seattle City Council on the Job Assistance Ordinance, which gives individuals with prior criminal histories the opportunity to reunite with their families, get a second chance at life, and improve their employment opportunities.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** be it proclaimed, that the Seattle City Council officially recognizes the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Seattle Human Rights Commission. The Seattle City Council calls on the City and people of Seattle to observe and honor the significant contributions and achievements of the Seattle Human Rights Commission.

  
Council President Sally J. Clark

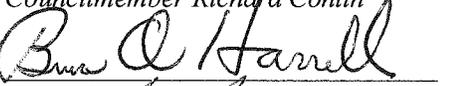
  
Councilmember Tim Burgess

  
Councilmember Jean Godden

  
Councilmember Nick Licata

  
Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

  
Councilmember Richard Conlin

  
Councilmember Bruce Harrell (Sponsor)

  
Councilmember Mike O'Brien

  
Councilmember Tom Rasmussen