

# PROCLAMATION

*WHEREAS, the African American community has lost a close friend, Seattle has lost an elder statesman, and the Puget Sound has lost a champion who worked to change our region for the better; and*

*WHEREAS, Herman McKinney's lifelong dedication to diversity and equity (in education) and equal opportunity (in corporate hiring) inspired others to believe in human dignity and reconciliation; he offered the promise of a better city for the powerful and the powerless; and*

*WHEREAS, Herman McKinney was born in Oklahoma, the youngest of three children. As a child, he arrived in Portland, Oregon, during World War II. His family joined thousands of Black families who migrated North to work in the Kaiser shipyards. A running back known for his lateral speed and ability to cut and shake for the University of Oregon football team, he later relinquished a career in banking before heading to the University of Washington to pursue a masters in social work; and*

*WHEREAS, he was named as an assistant dean for the University of Washington (UW) in 1968, where he was responsible for recruiting minority candidates to the UW; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1976, Mr. McKinney co-founded The Breakfast Group, an association of African-American male professionals to be mentors to young black males who were expelled from school or are on the verge of expulsion. This great organization began when he and others started with a vision, walked with a prayer, and then executed with a tenacity. He was a well-beloved friend, counselor, advocate and a lifelong member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., arguably one of the greatest fraternities on earth; and*

*WHEREAS, Herman McKinney demonstrated through the life he led, what is most important: family, friends, love; and teaching our children and youth to be better than the generation before. Herman's wonderful wife, Norma, never left his side; his children, Kristal, Kevin and Kent, never left his reach; and, his eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, never left his heart; and*

*WHEREAS, from 1993 to 2006, as Director of the UEC, McKinney honed his social justice skills helping people address their problems and matching them with the resources they needed to lead healthy and productive lives. He connected the dots between peace and social justice and was credited with reducing tensions in Seattle by sponsoring conversations about race at public forums and private gatherings at dinner tables. He realized that peace was not possible when there were gross inequalities of money and power, so he did something about it. He helped low-income residents get jobs through a partnership between the Washington State Department of Employment Security and more than 900 companies. As a result, his efforts were instrumental in placing over 7,100 people into living-wage positions and infusing some \$60 million into the Pacific Northwest economy; and*

*WHEREAS, as a mark of respect for the memory of Mr. Herman McKinney, let us agree to carry forward the example that he set – to make decisions guided not by hate, but by love; to see greatness in all people; to never discount the difference that one person can make; and to strive for a better future for all Seattle residents, without regard to race, color, creed, or any other protected status.*

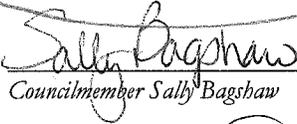
*NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed by The Mayor and Seattle City Council that  
Friday, April 25, 2014, shall be:*

## **HERMAN MCKINNEY DAY**

*in Seattle and urge all to join us in honoring his legacy and celebrating his life.*



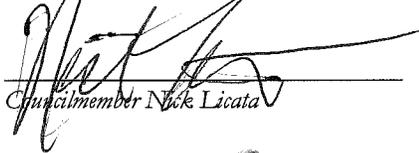
*Edward B. Murray, Mayor*



*Councilmember Sally Bagshaw*



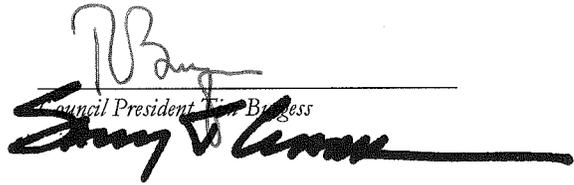
*Councilmember Jean Golden*



*Councilmember Nick Licata*

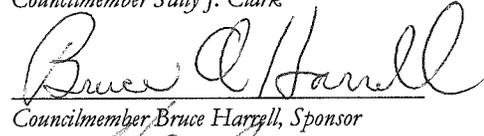


*Councilmember Tom Rasmussen*



*Council President Tim Burgess*

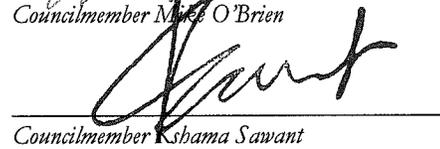
*Councilmember Sally J. Clark*



*Councilmember Bruce Harrell, Sponsor*



*Councilmember Mike O'Brien*



*Councilmember Kshama Sawant*