

# PROCLAMATION

53<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY – *GIDEON V. WAINWRIGHT*

WHEREAS, MARCH 18 IS THE 53RD ANNIVERSARY OF *GIDEON V. WAINWRIGHT*, THE U.S. SUPREME COURT CASE THAT ESTABLISHED ACCESS TO COUNSEL IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT GUARANTEED BY THE CONSTITUTION; AND

WHEREAS, PUBLIC DEFENDERS ARE PROTECTING THE CONSTITUTIONAL LEGAL RIGHTS OF THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS IN SEATTLE AND KING COUNTY EACH YEAR; AND

WHEREAS, PUBLIC DEFENDERS ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLES WE ARE FACING IN AMERICA TODAY: THE CRIMINALIZATION OF THE POOR AND HOMELESS; RACIAL PROFILING; A WAR ON DRUGS THAT HAS FILLED PRISONS WITH MEN OF COLOR; LEGAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS THAT HAVE TURNED JAILS INTO MODERN-DAY DEBTORS' PRISONS; AND

WHEREAS, SYSTEMIC ISSUES SUCH AS THESE REQUIRE ADVOCACY FOR COMMUNITY-BASED ALTERNATIVES, THERAPEUTIC COURTS, AND OTHER SERVICES TO HELP ADDRESS THE UNDERLYING ISSUES THAT BRING PEOPLE INTO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM; AND

WHEREAS, THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL HAS RECENTLY COMMITTED VIA COUNCIL BILL 118636 TO ACHIEVING ZERO DETENTION OF OUR YOUTH, PARTICULARLY YOUTH OF COLOR; AND

WHEREAS, MARCH 18 IS ALSO NATIONAL PUBLIC DEFENSE DAY; AND

WHEREAS, SUPREME COURT JUSTICE HUGO BLACK STATED "THERE CAN BE NO EQUAL JUSTICE WHERE THE KIND OF TRIAL A MAN GETS DEPENDS ON THE AMOUNT OF MONEY HE HAS"; AND

WHEREAS, JUDGE LEARNED HAND SAID "IF WE ARE TO KEEP OUR DEMOCRACY, THERE MUST BE ONE COMMANDMENT: THOU SHALT NOT RATION JUSTICE"; AND

WHEREAS, THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL HONORS THE PUBLIC DEFENDERS WHO ARE FIGHTING FOR INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY, DUE PROCESS, AND SYSTEMIC CHANGES THAT HELP ALL PEOPLE LIVE HEALTHIER, PRODUCTIVE LIVES.

*Now, therefore, The Seattle City Council proclaims:  
Friday, March 18, 2016 to be Public Defense Day*



Council President Bruce A. Harrell



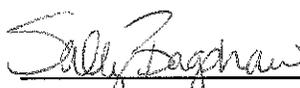
Councilmember Tim Burgess



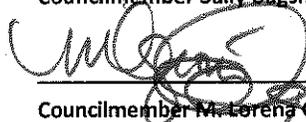
Councilmember Lisa Herbold



Councilmember Debora Juarez



Councilmember Sally Bagshaw



Councilmember M. Lorena González



Councilmember Rob Johnson



Councilmember Mike O'Brien



Councilmember Kshama Sawant