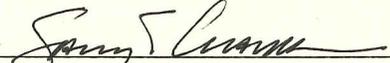


PROCLAMATION

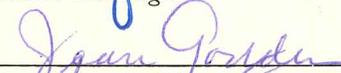
A PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF T.J. VASSAR, JR.

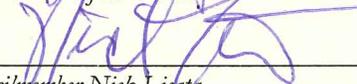
- WHEREAS,** Thomas Vassar, Jr., affectionately known as T.J., passed away Friday, January 25, 2013, after a long battle with pancreatic cancer; and,
- WHEREAS,** Over three years ago, when diagnosed, doctors gave him six months to live, but T.J. shared that he needed more time and planned to outlive the diagnosis. With his tenacious spirit and the love of his beautiful family and friends, it was possible for him to do so; and,
- WHEREAS,** T.J. was a pioneer and a kind and courageous visionary leader—he was one of the first African American students to attend Seattle’s elite Lakeside School in North Seattle and served on the Seattle Public School Board; and,
- WHEREAS,** When elected to the Seattle School Board in 1981, he was the youngest person ever elected; and
- WHEREAS,** While serving two terms, he helped win reparations for Japanese American secretaries who were forced to quit their jobs at the Seattle Public School District during World War II; and,
- WHEREAS,** T.J. was appointed by former Governor Booth Gardner as the first Chairperson of the Commission on African American Affairs; the Commission was created to study how public policy affects African Americans; and,
- WHEREAS,** T.J. believed in diversity’s essential link with great education; he supported that belief with courage and stamina and continued to stay in the debate for over thirty years. He taught the Lakeside community that a diverse Lakeside School is a better one for all of its students – all races and backgrounds; and,
- WHEREAS,** Being among the first African American students to attend Lakeside School, he returned many years later, after graduating from Harvard University and receiving a Master’s Degree from the University of Washington, to run the same program that took him there as a student; and,
- WHEREAS,** During his years as an administrator at Lakeside, the school became one of the most sought after model for diverse private schools in the country. T.J.’s passion for diversity, equity and education, ignited Lakeside and its community, the city of Seattle, and independent schools across the country.

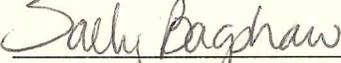
NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed that on Monday, April 29, 2013, the Seattle City Council honors the life and legacy of T.J. Vassar, Jr., and invites all members of our community and educators to join in and pay final tribute, honor and respect to a man who devoted his life to education and increasing opportunities for all students.


Council President Sally J. Clark

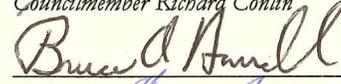

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