

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Seattle City Council celebrates the Cierra Sisters, Inc., and Bridgette Hempstead, an outstanding leader who stood up in the fight against cancer. The Cierra Sisters, an African American breast cancer survivor and support organization, celebrates its 18th Anniversary in February 2014. The Cierra Sisters, has effectively made a difference in our city, while sharing knowledge, giving support, and saving lives;

WHEREAS, On April 5, 2014, Cierra Sisters will celebrate their 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Landmark Event Center;

WHEREAS, In 1996, Bridgette Hempstead was inspired to seek medical care and scheduled a mammogram appointment. She was diagnosed with breast cancer on her 35<sup>th</sup> birthday. Thanks to early detection, Bridgette has been a breast cancer survivor for 18 years;

WHEREAS, On February 23rd, 1996, during Black History month, Bridgette formed Cierra Sisters, Inc. Cierra Sisters reminds us that having knowledge is not enough, but when one puts knowledge into practice, it is power against the ravaging effects of breast cancer;

WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in American women. The CDC further reports that African American women are disproportionately affected by it and that African American women are more likely than all other women to die from breast cancer;

WHEREAS, Early detection of breast cancer greatly increases the chances that a woman will survive this disease. Women who have regular exams (mammograms and clinical breast exams) are much more likely to detect breast cancer early, have more options for treatment, and survive the disease;

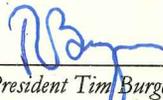
WHEREAS, For 18 years, Seattle has been grateful to the Cierra Sisters for helping cancer survivors and their loved ones make informed decisions and improve the quality of their lives. Cierra Sisters provides outstanding education and outreach -- including information on early detection, seminars and motivational programs, as well as emotional and spiritual support. While Cierra Sisters primarily provides support to breast cancer survivors, it also offers information and support to the survivors of all other forms of cancer.

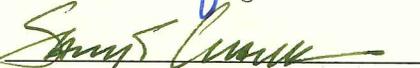
WHEREAS, In 2013, Cierra Sisters expanded its work in global advocacy to Uganda and continues to touch lives. Cierra Sisters empowers women with breast cancer at home and around the world.

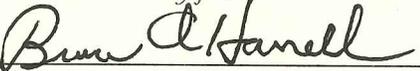
NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed by the Seattle City Council, that Saturday, April 5, 2014 is

## CIERRA SISTERS DAY

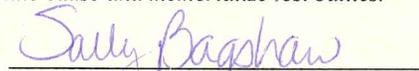
We commend Bridgette Hempstead and the members of Cierra Sisters for standing up in the fight against cancer and for their dedication to cancer survivors and their loved ones. We ask all citizens to join in this worthwhile cause and memorialize lost battles.

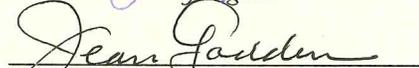
  
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Council President Tim Burgess

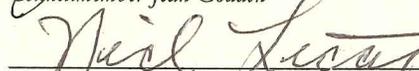
  
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Councilmember Sally J. Clark

  
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Councilmember Bruce Harrell, Sponsor

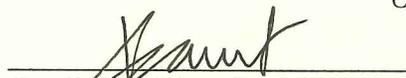
  
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Councilmember Mike O'Brien

  
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Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

  
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Councilmember Jean Godden

  
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Councilmember Nick Licata

  
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Councilmember Tom Rasmussen

  
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Councilmember Kshama Sawant