

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, February 19th marks the anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s issuance of Executive Order 9066 in 1942, which authorized military rule over civilian law and lives and stripped Japanese Americans of their civil and constitutional rights; and
- WHEREAS, Executive Order 9066 led to notices of exclusion to more than 120,000 Japanese Americans, two-thirds of whom were American citizens born in this country – forcibly removing them from their homes and relocating them to incarceration camps surrounded by barbed wire and watch towers, with residents of Seattle sent to the Puyallup Fairgrounds for six months before transferring to Idaho or California; and
- WHEREAS, Executive Order 9066 targeted Japanese Americans on unfounded accusations of espionage or sabotage, despite the fact that thousands of brave Japanese American young men enlisted in the 442 Regimental Combat Team and served the U.S. at a great cost – becoming the most decorated unit in U.S. military history; and
- WHEREAS, residents of Seattle created and organized the very first Day of Remembrance in 1978 as a car caravan from the parking lot of Sicks Stadium to the site of the Puyallup Assembly Center – inventing a new tradition that continues to this day; and
- WHEREAS, in 1982, the Congressional Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians found that there was “no military or security reason for the internment” and it “was caused by racial prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership;” and
- WHEREAS, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act, offering survivors \$20,000 to redress violations of civil and Constitutional rights; and
- WHEREAS, while we celebrate the vast contributions of the Japanese American community in our City, we also acknowledge the unconscionable past of adversity, prejudice and persecution that they have endured – representing an important thread in our history that we will not allow to be repeated; and
- WHEREAS, today and throughout the month, commemorative events held throughout Seattle and Washington State pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives and recognizes their resilience, hope and determination that shape our values today as we commit to fighting against hate, injustice and discrimination on the basis of race, religious beliefs, gender identity, or other differences; and,
- WHEREAS, the City of Seattle honors the sacrifices of our residents and neighbors that have been harmed by the reprehensible actions of Executive Order 9066 by commemorating a Day of Remembrance for the Japanese American Incarceration – serving as a reminder of our collective commitment towards building a just and inclusive community for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE MAYOR OF SEATTLE AND THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
PROCLAIM FEBRUARY 19, 2024 TO BE

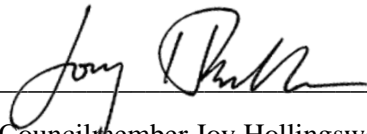
**DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE JAPANESE
AMERICAN INCARCERATION**



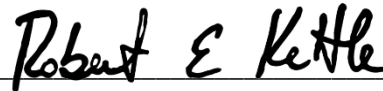
Mayor Bruce A. Harrell



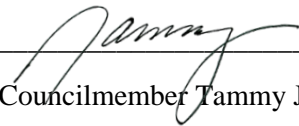
City Council President Sara Nelson



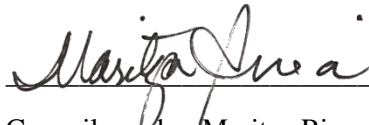
Councilmember Joy Hollingsworth



Councilmember Robert Kettle



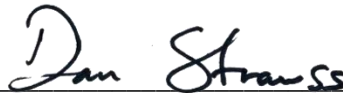
Councilmember Tammy J. Morales



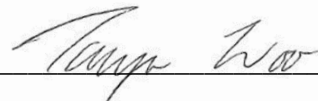
Councilmember Maritza Rivera



Councilmember Rob Saka



Councilmember Dan Strauss



Councilmember Tanya Woo

