
PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DECLARING June as Orca Awareness Month

WHEREAS, the community of Southern Resident orcas were listed as endangered in November 2005, under the Endangered Species Act and continue to struggle with declining numbers of now only 75 members remaining, less than half of their original numbers; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Resident orcas are an essential part of our region and an important indicator of the health of Puget Sound, its watersheds, and of the Salish Sea; and

WHEREAS, the orca is an icon of the Pacific Northwest, and the City of Seattle's desire is to ensure that our future generations have living, thriving resident orcas as part of their lives; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle's many creeks, streams and its only river - the Duwamish River - provide valuable salmon habitat that support all five salmon species, including the endangered Chinook salmon, which orca depend upon as their primary food source; and

WHEREAS, the major threats facing the Southern Resident orcas are: declining salmon runs especially the endangered Chinook salmon - their principal food source; loss of salmon habitat; noise and disturbance from ships, small boats and non-motorized vessels which affect their ability to echolocate, communicate and forage; toxic pollutants, which are inhibiting orcas' ability to raise healthy young orcas; and the potential for a devastating oil spill which could decimate the orca population; and

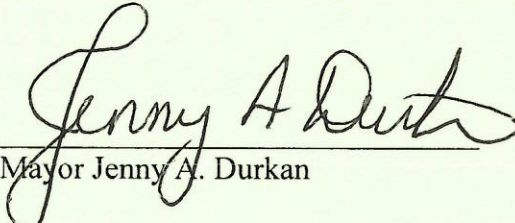
WHEREAS, in support of Governor Inslee's State of Washington Proclamation of June as Orca Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, the Orca Network, Orca Salmon Alliance, Duwamish Alive Coalition, and other local organizations working to recover this fragile community of orcas, are joining together in a month-long focused effort to educate the public, to take actions to restore, conserve and protect important habitats critical to salmon and orcas, including the health of Puget Sound and the Salish Sea; and


WHEREAS, we encourage all people of the City of Seattle and the Puget Sound region to join in the efforts to save our fragile community of Southern Resident orcas;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR DO HEREBY
PROCLAIM JUNE 2019 AS

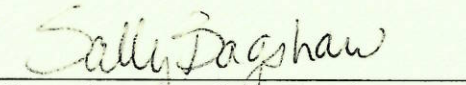
ORCA AWARENESS MONTH



Mayor Jenny A. Durkan



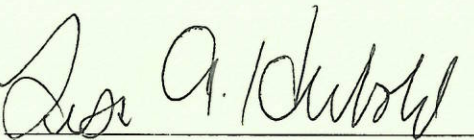
Council President Bruce A. Harrell



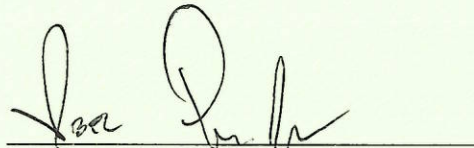
Councilmember Sally Bagshaw



Councilmember M. Lorena González



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



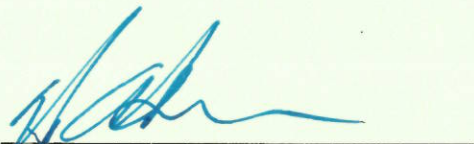
Councilmember Abel Pacheco



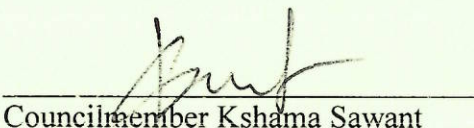
Councilmember Debora Juarez



Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda



Councilmember Mike O'Brien



Councilmember Kshama Sawant