

## RESOLUTION NO. 12-04

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### **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO CREATE A WILLAMETTE FALLS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA AND URGING DESIGNATION OF SUCH BY CONGRESS**

**WHEREAS**, National Heritage Areas are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape; and

**WHEREAS**, the Willamette Falls Area is an important nexus of the geologic formations created by the Missoula Flood, including the Willamette Meteorite and the foundation of the unmatched fertility of the Willamette Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, the Falls Area was an important gathering place for fishing and trade amongst numerous tribes for centuries prior to Western settlement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Falls Area has been and continues to be an important transportation hub for trade, commerce and recreation; and

**WHEREAS**, Following discovery by Western explorers, the Falls Area became a focal point for early trappers and traders, including the Hudson's Bay Company and John Mcloughlin; and

**WHEREAS**, These trading activities led to establishment of an industrial base at the falls in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century; and

**WHEREAS**, The 2000-mile journey of the Oregon Trail ended at the Falls Area, making it a destination point for one of the largest migrations in human history; and

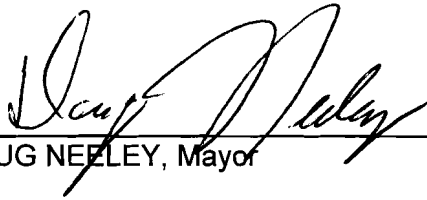
**WHEREAS**, This focal point of industry and migration resulted in the founding of Oregon City on the East bank of Willamette Falls; and

**WHEREAS**, Oregon City became the first chartered City West of the Continental Divide; and

**WHEREAS**, Oregon City became the Capital of the Oregon Territory and later the first Capital of the State of Oregon.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE OREGON CITY COMMISSION THAT**, the City of Oregon City supports the efforts of the Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition to attain National Heritage status for the Willamette Falls Area; urges the National Parks Service to find that such status is merited, and urges Congress to designate and create a Willamette Falls National Heritage Area.

Approved and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Commission held on the 15th day of February 2012.

  
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DOUG NEELEY, Mayor

Attested to this 15th day of February 2012:

  
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Nancy Ide, City Recorder

Approved as to legal sufficiency:

  
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City Attorney