

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Milwaukie's history is important to understand, observe, and recognize from all perspectives; and

WHEREAS Milwaukie had a small but thriving Japanese American community in the early 1940's with at least 87 individuals of Japanese heritage reported in the 1940 United States Census; and

WHEREAS the last names of these individuals and families included: Endo, Fujita, Hirofujii, Koida, Kuribayashi, Nakamura, Sasaki, Shinto, Terusaki, Takemoto, Tamisayu, Yoshizawa, Yamada, Yoshitomi, and Watanabe; and

WHEREAS many of these families were successful farmers, florists, or nursery operators, including the Watanabes and Yoshitomis who once had large celery farms at the present-day Minthorn Springs Natural Area; and

WHEREAS on February 19, 1942, United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 resulting in the forced removal and incarceration of over 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast, over two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS on May 7, 1942, people of Japanese ancestry from Clackamas County and eastern Multnomah County were ordered to report, without a trial or due process, to the Portland Assembly Center before they were forced into concentration camps in unfamiliar places, like the Minidoka War Relocation Center in Hunt, Idaho; and

WHEREAS we recognize the Japanese families in Milwaukie and Clackamas County that were uprooted and yet how, despite these experiences, thousands of young Japanese American men — including young Japanese American men from Milwaukie — demonstrated exemplary heroism and courage to enlist in the U.S. armed forces and bravely fight in World War II to defend the nation that was abridging their own freedoms at home; and

WHEREAS we recognize that when released, some of these members of our community may have lost their homes or property and that Japanese Americans worked hard to rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS in 1983, the Federal Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians found that Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity and decisions that resulted from it were not driven by analysis of military conditions; and

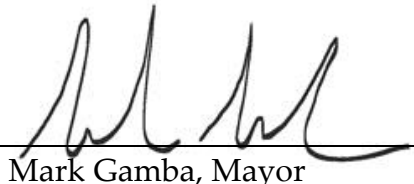
WHEREAS on August 10, 1988, United States President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, finding that Executive Order 9066 was not justified by national security and that the incarceration constituted a grave injustice to Japanese Americans; and

WHEREAS on February 2, 2022, the City of Milwaukie, the Milwaukie Museum, and the Japanese American Museum of Oregon held a Ledding Library Lecture Series event to educate the community about Milwaukie's Japanese American history and to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the issuance of Executive Order 9066, an event which forever changed the course of American history; and

WHEREAS the City of Milwaukie is proud of its Japanese American history and recognizes and values the ongoing contributions from its Japanese American community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Gamba, Mayor of the City of Milwaukie, a municipal corporation in the County of Clackamas, in the State of Oregon, do hereby proclaim February 19, 2022, as JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION REMEMBRANCE DAY.

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, and with the consent of the City Council of the City of Milwaukie, I have hereunto set my hand on this 15th day of February 2022.



Mark Gamba, Mayor

ATTEST:



Scott Stauffer, City Recorder