

Whereas

Whereas, we who live, work, study, worship, travel and recreate in the City of Portland recognize that a culturally vibrant community is built on equity and inclusion; and

Whereas, on December 10th, 1948 the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document that continues to be a call to action for the City of Portland to meet its obligation to promote, protect, and model a praxis of governing that employs human rights and fundamental freedoms; and

Whereas, we acknowledge with humility that the present City of Portland exists on the lands of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other tribes and indigenous peoples who made their homes along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers; and

Whereas, we acknowledge with gratitude the past and present internally displaced people, enslaved people, immigrants and refugees to our community who by their courage, creativity, and resourcefulness have built up and enriched the physical, cultural, and spiritual environment of our common home; and

Whereas, the City of Portland acknowledges the illegitimacy of white supremacist movements and historical racial discrimination that has plagued our collective experience; and

Whereas

Whereas, the City of Portland is committed to protecting and improving the lives of all of our community members and strives to eliminate all forms of discrimination because such discrimination poses a threat to the health, safety and welfare of our community, we humbly acknowledge that we have much to do; and

Whereas, the City of Portland acknowledges the structurally and systemically oppressive institutions that impact people, we aim to alleviate this harm through policies and practices that affirm the need for collective liberation for all people to thrive in our City; and

Whereas, in accordance with Article 1, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the City of Portland recognizes the right of all people to self-determination and political and economic agency, we aim to model our policies and practices to affirm this belief; and

Whereas, in accordance with Article 2, the City of Portland affirms its sanctuary city commitment that protects undocumented people from federal enforcement of harsh detainment and deportation policies regardless of legal strategies used to attain citizenship. We continue to acknowledge the need to prohibit the denial of social and economic benefits and discrimination against people based on race, religion, color, national origin, English proficiency, gender, age and disabilities; and

Whereas, in accordance with Article 3, the City of Portland recognizes the lives lost and the families who have been directly impacted by the use of force against unarmed civilians from law enforcement as a direct threat to the collective experience of human rights for all being acknowledged in practice; and

Whereas

Whereas, in accordance with Articles 13 and 19, the City of Portland recognizes the rights of all people to freedom of movement and expression and to not be unnecessarily surveilled; and

Whereas, in accordance with Article 16, the City of Portland recognizes the need to affirm gender diversity and the importance of inclusive acts that do not privilege cis-gender people over people who may be gender non-conforming or transgender; and

Whereas, in accordance with Articles 1, 5 and 25, we do not accept public or private acts of disregard and contempt that present as cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment and that outrage the conscience of humankind in the City of Portland for our communities of color, members of our community who are houseless, indigenous, internally displaced, immigrant, refugee, and asylum seeking, transgender and LGBTQ individuals, people living with different mental and physical abilities, those who are poor and experiencing poverty, women, youth, and aging, and families impacted by incarceration and the re-entry community in the City of Portland; and

Whereas, in accordance with Articles 20 and 21, the City of Portland affirms people's Constitutional rights to peaceably assemble and to protest against human rights violations and violators; and

Whereas, in accordance with Article 17, we affirm every community member's right to own property and to be housed; and

Whereas

Whereas, the City of Portland reaffirmed its commitment to human rights in March 2008, by establishing a Human Rights Commission whose work is guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

Whereas, in accordance with Article 6, the ideals of equality, justice, safety, inclusion and respect set forth in the declaration remain unfulfilled promises for many members of our community, including practicing our own Constitutional promise of equal protection under the law; and

Whereas, in accordance with Article 29, to be truly universal, the rights set forth in the declaration must be respected, protected, and fulfilled by and for every person in the City of Portland without exception;

Now, therefore, I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, do hereby proclaim December 19, 2018, to be the day that Portland honors the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We call upon everyone who lives, works, studies, worships, travels and recreates in Portland to step forward and defend the human rights of everyone in our community, and especially our most vulnerable community members, lest we sacrifice our collective humanity. Together we can and must make the ideals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights a reality in our City.

City of Portland Human Rights Declaration Proclamation