

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021/22-01  
CITY OF DAYTON, OREGON**

***A Resolution in Support of the Willamette Falls and Landings National Heritage Area***

**WHEREAS**, Willamette Falls (Hyas Tyee Tumwater in Chinook Jargon), the second largest waterfall by volume in the United States, was created by the combined geologic forces of the eruption of Mt. Hood (Wyeast to Native Americans) and multiple cataclysmic ice age floods of 15,000 to 17,000 years ago; and

**WHEREAS**, this thundering waterfall is the largest and oldest landing on the Willamette River, where Native Americans fished, gathered, and traded for centuries, from whom the name “Wallamet” (meaning spill water) is thought to be derived; and

**WHEREAS**, the area where the course of Oregon’s great river changes from north/south to running east/west for 30 miles of the gentle gradient of the Newberg Pool, bounding French Prairie on the east and north, before cutting through the volcanic basalt of the Tualatin Mountains to plunge over 40 feet at Willamette Falls; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kalapuya people called French Prairie home for thousands of years and depended on the land for the creator's gifts of sustenance and used the upriver Willamette for fishing, travel, and trade; and

**WHEREAS**, the British Northwest Fur Company established the Willamette Fur Post in 1813 on the Willamette River north of St. Paul, merging with the Hudson Bay Company in 1821, and remaining in service until 1830; and

**WHEREAS**, retired French Canadian Hudson Bay fur trappers married Native women and became the first non-native settlers in Oregon, and Etienne Lucier and Pierre Belleque came to be known as the first farmers, resulting in the name French Prairie and establishing the agricultural tradition that continues to this day; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. John McLoughlin, *Father of Oregon*, was Chief Factor of the Hudson’s Bay Company based at Vancouver and was instrumental in supporting the settlement of both Oregon City and French Prairie and its surrounding area, as was Robert Newell, founder of Champoeg; and

**WHEREAS**, the vote to establish the Provisional American-style self-Government took place at Champoeg on May 2, 1843, wherein 52 out of 102 adult French Prairie males voted to establish the Provisional American-style self-Government and align with the United States rather than Great Britain, which led to the establishment of the Oregon Territorial Capitol at Oregon City in 1848 and ultimately to statehood in 1859; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1838 Father Frances Blanchet was appointed vicar general of Quebec with jurisdiction of the Oregon Country, and established the first Roman Catholic Parish by blessing

the cemetery ground and log church at St. Paul, followed by St. Joseph's College for Boys, Sisters of Notre Dame du Namur Convent and Girls School, and finally in 1846 he blessed the cornerstone for the first brick church in Oregon, and was later elevated to Bishop when the oldest Diocese west of the Rockies was established in Oregon City in 1846; and

**WHEREAS**, from the 1840's to the 1870's Oregon City served as the End of the Oregon Trail for many of the 300,000 pioneers making the overland journey from Missouri to the "Garden of Eden" in the lush plains of the Willamette Valley, was the first incorporated city west of the Rocky Mountains, served as the first seat of government and was the location of the federal land office; and

**WHEREAS**, from the 1840's through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, French Prairie was the center of Oregon agriculture and Butteville was the primary upriver port on the Willamette River for passenger and freight transport; and

**WHEREAS**, the landings along the Willamette River served as locations for establishing ferries, mills, shipping ports, homesteads, towns, and sites for thriving commerce that supported settlement, communication and navigation throughout the Willamette Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, Oregon City and Canemah at Willamette Falls were the primary portage and trading connections between the upper river and the lower river; and

**WHEREAS**, a shallow draft stern-wheeler was developed at Canemah to ply the upriver Willamette from Canemah to Corvallis, and this new type of vessel developed into a fleet of passenger and freight stern-wheelers supporting travel and industry from 1851 to 1905; and

**WHEREAS**, the Willamette Falls Locks opened in 1873, enabling the uninterrupted navigation between the upper river and the lower river and eliminating the need for portage, opening the river to free market commerce; and

**WHEREAS**, the Willamette River and its landings supported Oregon's timber industry for more than a century into the 1980's by being the principal means of delivering logs in the form of giant log rafts floated downstream to hundreds of paper and saw mills; and

**WHEREAS**, the power of Willamette Falls drove industrial development at Oregon City and West Linn including a wide variety of mills: flour, woolen, paper and lumber; and

**WHEREAS**, the first iron smelter west of the Rockies was established below the Falls at the landing at Sucker Creek, near Oswego; and

**WHEREAS**, Willamette Falls provided the power for the first long distance transmission of electricity in North America and was responsible for the electrification of the city of Portland featured in the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition; and

**WHEREAS**, the Willamette River and its landings continue to connect historic and modern communities who share this river, marvel at its beauty and enjoy her many benefits including

drinking water, navigation, recreation, irrigated agriculture, industrial and commercial enterprise, hydropower and natural habitat for fish and wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, the Willamette River running for 187 miles, through the heart of Western Oregon, from its headwaters in the Cascades and Coast Range, through our rich agricultural heartland, through cities with two-thirds of Oregon's population, home to our great universities, our State Capitol, and Oregon's largest metropolitan areas.

**WHEREAS**, the Congress of the United States adopted HR 1002: The National Heritage Area Act of 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, The Act establishes minimum criteria for designation of a National Heritage Area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Willamette Falls and Landings Heritage Area Coalition submitted to the National Park Service the requisite Feasibility Study dated July 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Park Service has concluded that the Willamette Falls and Landings National Heritage Area meets the established criteria and qualifies for designation under the Act by the Congress of the United States;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The City of Dayton supports establishment of the Willamette Falls and Landings National Heritage Area.
2. The City of Dayton urges the Congress of the United States to enact legislation establishing the Willamette Falls and Landings National Heritage Area.

**ADOPTED** this 19th day of July 2021.

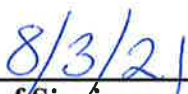
**In Favor:** Frank, Holbrook, Mackin, Marquez, Price and Sandoval-Perez

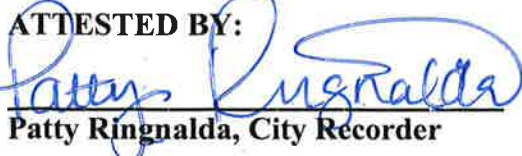
**Opposed:** None

**Absent:** Wytoski

**Abstained:** None

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Wytoski, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signing

**ATTESTED BY:**  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Patty Ringnald, City Recorder

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Enactment