



Item Number: 4a proclamation
Meeting Date: February 10,2026

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10 **WHEREAS**, the Port of Seattle is committed to racial equity and confronting anti-Black racism
11 by embedding inclusion, belonging, and fairness across its operations and
12 leadership, reflecting our diverse communities, creating an equitable culture, and
13 ensuring that opportunities expand economic and social well-being for all; and

15 **WHEREAS**, 2026 marks a century of national Black history commemorations, honoring the
16 vision and leadership of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the founders of the Association
17 for the Study of Negro Life and History, whose work institutionalized the study,
18 celebration, and preservation of Black history and affirmed the countless
19 contributions of Black Americans to the cultural, economic, political, and social
20 foundations of this nation; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the Port of Seattle honors the historic and ongoing contributions of Black leaders,
28 Black employees, and all Black Americans to the economic, cultural, and social life
29 of King County and beyond, including through leadership at the Port, participation
30 in Employee Resource Groups, engagement with the Change Team, involvement
31 with Blacks In Government, and the everyday actions of our Port family advancing
32 justice and equity; and

34 **WHEREAS**, Blacks In Government is part of a national non-profit organization that celebrated
35 its 50th anniversary last year. We are an inclusive organization and invite everyone
36 to share our purpose, and join in our mission, as we work toward achieving our
37 vision; and

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WHEREAS, Blacks In Government's purpose is to advance equity and empowerment for Black public servants by fostering a community where learning and leadership strengthen both individual potential and collective progress. Our mission is to create avenues for educational opportunities, career advancement, and to provide a mechanism for inclusion, growth, and advocacy. Our vision is a mosaic that embodies the belief that all people, regardless of race, color, gender, gender identity, religion, or citizenship status, can embrace who they are, define their future, and change the world; and

WHEREAS, at a time when the current federal administration is actively attempting to erase Black history, restrict truthful education, and dismantle hard-won civil rights gains, the Port of Seattle unequivocally acknowledges that Black Americans—many of whom were forced to build this nation through enslavement, exploitation, and systemic dehumanization—have shaped every aspect of the United States, and we reject any effort to deny, distort, or diminish that reality; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle Commission continues to elevate and honor the contributions of Black Americans through sustained institutional commitment, inclusive policies, education, and recognition, ensuring that Black history is preserved, celebrated, and carried forward as an essential and living part of our shared civic and cultural story.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Port of Seattle Commission proclaims February 2026 as Black History Month, honoring the legacy of those who paved the way, those advancing equity today, and all members of the Port family committed to justice, inclusion, and Black excellence.

Proclaimed by the Port of Seattle Commission on this 10th day of February 2026.

Port of Seattle Commission

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