



Agenda Item: 4a\_proclamation  
Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

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## PROCLAMATION OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION

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3       **WHEREAS**, February 19, 2026, marks eighty-four years since President  
4 Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which authorized the forced removal and  
5 incarceration of over 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry, two-thirds of whom were  
6 American citizens, and most of whom were children, and were stripped of their constitutional  
7 rights without due process; and

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10       **WHEREAS**, Washington State carried lasting wounds from this injustice as Japanese  
11 people from vibrant communities across Seattle, Tacoma, Auburn, Fife, and throughout the region  
12 were torn from their homes, farms, and businesses, their lives and livelihoods destroyed by  
13 government-sanctioned discrimination; and

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16       **WHEREAS**, on March 30, 1942, Bainbridge Island witnessed the first forced removal  
17 under Executive Order 9066 when 227 Japanese Americans, including Fumiko Hayashida and her  
18 13-month-old daughter Natalie, were compelled to board a ferry bound for the Manzanar  
19 Relocation Center. The iconic photograph of Fumiko holding her sleeping daughter became an  
20 enduring symbol of this dark chapter in our nation's history, and their subsequent transfer to  
21 Minidoka Internment Camp in Idaho reflected the cruel reality faced by thousands who endured  
22 nearly three years of incarceration before the last camp closed in March 1946; and

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24       **WHEREAS**, the Puyallup Assembly Center, euphemistically named "Camp Harmony,"  
25 was among 17 hastily constructed temporary detention sites established across the West Coast,  
26 located at what is now the Washington State Fairgrounds, serving as staging areas before detainees  
27 were transported to more permanent incarceration camps; and

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29       **WHEREAS**, the Nisei soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and 100th  
30 Infantry Battalion exemplified extraordinary courage and patriotism, becoming the most decorated  
31 unit in U.S. military history while their own families remained imprisoned behind barbed wire,  
32 their service a testament to unwavering loyalty in the face of unconscionable injustice; and

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34       **WHEREAS**, today we witness troubling echoes of this history as recent federal  
35 immigration policies, including reinstated travel bans and deportation policies targeting  
36 individuals based on nationality, have expanded immigration enforcement operations in schools  
37 and places of worship; have led to the forced removal of families, including over 400 children at  
38 its peak in January 2026; have seen executive orders seeking to eliminate birthright citizenship;  
39 have witnessed mass deportation programs; all of which replicate the discriminatory targeting of  
40 communities based on national origin and immigration status, making the lessons of Executive  
41 Order 9066 not merely historical reflection but an urgent contemporary warning; and

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43       **WHEREAS**, protecting civil liberties during times of crisis is not merely aspirational  
44 but essential to our democracy, and vigilance against prejudice, fear-mongering, and the  
45 scapegoating of vulnerable communities remains our collective responsibility; and

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47       **WHEREAS**, in October 2025, the Port of Seattle Commission unanimously adopted  
48 Resolution No. 3838, substantially strengthening the Port's Welcoming Port Policy Directive in  
49 direct response to heightened threats against immigrant communities – affirming that the Port will  
50 remain a place where all individuals, regardless of immigration status, are welcomed, protected,  
51 and treated with dignity; and

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53       **WHEREAS**, February 19th stands as the Day of Remembrance, a solemn occasion to  
54 reflect on these injustices, educate our community about the dangers of unchecked government  
55 power and racial prejudice, and renew our commitment to ensuring such violations of fundamental  
56 rights never occur again; and

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58       **WHEREAS**, the Port of Seattle condemns all acts of harassment, intimidation,  
59 discrimination, or any other forms of bigotry against any and all individuals, and affirms the right  
60 of every individual to equal protection under the law and to be judged by their actions rather than  
61 their identity.

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63       **NOW, THEREFORE**, the Port of Seattle Commission hereby honors and  
64 commemorates February 19, 2026, as the Day of Remembrance for Japanese American  
65 Incarceration, honors the resilience and immeasurable contributions of Japanese Americans who  
66 endured injustice with dignity, and commits to the vigilant protection of civil rights and equity for  
67 all people.

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69                   **BE IT RESOLVED**, the Port of Seattle Commission calls for federal government  
70 accountability of ICE and other federal immigration enforcement agency practices; believes that a  
71 full investigation into deaths by ICE and other federal immigration enforcement agents and deaths  
72 that have occurred in ICE custody must occur; demands the end of detention abuses; and calls on  
73 the United States Congress to adopt meaningful and significant guardrails and accountability for  
74 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, including conducting independent investigations of  
75 lawlessness and violence conducted by immigration agents that have engaged in excessive use of  
76 force or violated individuals' constitutional rights.

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78                   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Port affirms its responsibility to foster safe,  
79 welcoming facilities for all travelers and workers, and will continue to uphold its values of equity,  
80 transparency, and accountability in all interactions with federal agencies operating in Port facilities  
81 and will work to ensure that the rights and dignity of impacted communities are protected.

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83                   Proclaimed by the Port of Seattle Commission this 24th day of February, 2026.

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92                   Port of Seattle Commission