

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON,
APPROVING A CHANGE OF NAME FOR PRIEST POINT PARK TO SQUAXIN PARK IN
RECOGNITION OF THE SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE'S HISTORICAL HABITATION OF
OLYMPIA'S ENVIRONS**

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribe's habitation of what is now Olympia spans thousands of years, and tribal ancestral families named the Steh-Chass lived and thrived here and occupied prosperous villages along the shores of lower Puget Sound; and

WHEREAS, archeological findings of ancestral artifacts in the area suggest habitation by Squaxin ancestors since the retreat of the glaciers during the last Ice Age; and

WHEREAS, Squaxin Island Tribal history indicates the Tribe valued the area that is now Priest Point Park for ready access to fresh and salt water, the abundant salmon from the creeks, and rich clam beds, frequenting the shorelines and woods to gather, meet, and trade with other tribes and Coast Salish peoples from the many inlets and waterways of Puget Sound, and the Squaxin Island Tribe's concern for stewardship of the park's natural and cultural resources today; and

WHEREAS, despite the importance of the area to the Squaxin Island Tribe for thousands of years, Priest Point Park was named after a small group of Catholic missionaries, the Oblate Fathers, who came to the area in 1848. The priests cleared the land, planted a large garden, built a chapel, and established St. Joseph d'Olympia mission, which operated for 12 years until 1860; and

WHEREAS, while the City of Olympia recognizes the historical efforts by the Catholic priests who established the mission at what subsequently became known as Priest Point Park, it is important to rename Priest Point Park to serve as a reminder that the land on which the park is located was home to the Steh-Chass people long before it served as a mission or became a park. A Native name for the park will reflect its deeper history and enduring cultural significance, and appropriately acknowledge the Squaxin Island Tribe's continued and valued presence in our community; and

WHEREAS, in October 2021, the City of Olympia permanently raised the Squaxin Island Tribal flag above Olympia City Hall and signed a renewed Accord between the Squaxin Island Tribe and the City of Olympia. The Accord demonstrates the commitment the City and the Squaxin Island Tribe have to working together toward common goals with honor and respect for each other's cultures; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the renaming of Priest Point Park, which aligns with the Accord and the City's commitment to honor the Squaxin Island Tribe and their history in the Olympia area, Olympia's Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) held a public hearing on March 17, 2022, to receive public comment on renaming Priest Point Park to a name chosen by the Squaxin Island Tribe, to recognize the area as a place of importance to the past, present, and future of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, public comments received were both in favor and opposed to the park's renaming; however, PRAC's support was unanimously in favor of renaming Priest Point Park to Squaxin Park;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

1. The recommendation of PRAC that Priest Point Park should be renamed to Squaxin Park is hereby accepted and approved by the Olympia City Council.
2. Priest Point Park, located at 2600 East Bay Drive NE in the City of Olympia, shall hereafter, from this day forward, be known as Squaxin Park, and all reasonable steps shall be taken to change signage within the park and on maps of the City of Olympia to reflect the park's new name as Squaxin Park.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this _____ day of _____ 2022.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Mark Barber

CITY ATTORNEY