

**P R O C L A M A T I O N**

*WHEREAS, the United Nations has declared 2012 the International Year of Cooperatives; stating that "Cooperatives, in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, [and] are becoming a major factor of economic and social development and contribute to the eradication of poverty;" and*

*WHEREAS, the cooperative movement is flourishing in the City of Olympia, WA, including: a food cooperative; restaurant cooperative; retail consumer cooperative; health cooperative; financial cooperatives (credit unions); and other membership-run cooperatives which have contributed significantly to the well-being and prosperity of our community; and*

*WHEREAS, members of the Olympia community are seeking to learn more about cooperatives as a sustainable form of local economic development by participating in an exchange with the 45 year-old, 700 member Cecosesola Cooperative in Barquisimeto, Venezuela; and*

*WHEREAS, members of the Olympia community will be hosting a conference June 1st and 2nd to explore how cooperative forms of economic and social organization may counter unemployment and underemployment and support locally led economic development.*

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olympia City Council does hereby proclaim 2012 as the*

**YEAR OF THE COOPERATIVE**

*in the City of Olympia and encourages all residents to recognize and participate in its observance*

**SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 22<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2012.**

**OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL**

*Stephen H. Buxbaum*  
**Mayor**