

**BUDD INLET SIX — 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR**

**PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS, the City of Olympia is located along Budd Inlet within the Salish Sea and has a long-standing connection to the marine waters and ecosystems of South Puget Sound; and*

*WHEREAS, on Sunday, March 7, 1976, six orcas were captured and held in Budd Inlet near Olympia, an event that became known as the “Budd Inlet Six” and occurred in public view in the waters off the Athens Beach area; and*

*WHEREAS, the whales involved were Bigg’s orcas, a distinct ecotype present in the waters of Puget Sound; and*

*WHEREAS, during the same period, The Evergreen State College hosted the First International Orca Symposium (March 12–13, 1976), which brought together scientists and researchers focused on the study and welfare of orcas in the Puget Sound, and coincided with the events in Budd Inlet; and*

*WHEREAS, public attention to the Budd Inlet Six, together with scientific input and civic engagement, contributed to legal and political actions that resulted in the release of the captured whales and the cessation of live orca capture in Washington State waters; and*

*WHEREAS, Washington State leaders at that time, including Governor Dan Evans, Attorney General Slade Gorton, and aide to Governor Evans Ralph Munro, played roles in these actions, reflecting the involvement of state leadership in addressing the matter; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Olympia acknowledges its place in this chapter of regional environmental history and recognizes the value of public awareness, education, and stewardship of shared natural resources; and*

*NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, the Olympia City Council, does hereby proclaim the year 2026 as the:*

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*recognized under the commemorative theme: 1976. Budd Inlet Six. The Nets Fell. The Oceans Remembered.*

*and further designate March 7, 2026, as Budd Inlet Six Commemoration Day, and encourage residents, educational institutions, and community organizations to observe this anniversary through appropriate educational and reflective activities throughout the year. SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, THIS 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2026.*

**OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL**

*Dontae Payne*

*Mayor*