

**PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS, on May 12, 1984, the City of Olympia, with the assistance of the greater Thurston County community, successfully hosted the “The Event of the Century,” the first-ever Women’s Olympic Marathon Trials, which culminated in selecting the three winners to represent the United States in the historic, first-ever International Olympic Games Women’s Marathon; and*

*WHEREAS, prior to this event, for 88 years women marathoners were explicitly denied the opportunity to compete in the Olympic Games Marathon event because of discriminatory views that women were unable to, or should not, complete in marathons--in spite of women frequently doing so throughout the world; and*

*WHEREAS, a total of 238 outstanding, dedicated women marathoners from throughout the United States made history by competing in this event that began and ended at what is now known as Marathon Park; and*

*WHEREAS, this event showcased community and regional pride and enthusiasm with participation from over 4,500 volunteers, the cities of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, Thurston County, Saint Martin’s College, Intercity Transit, state agencies, the local business community, hundreds of donors, running organizations, and more; and*

*WHEREAS, Joan Benoit Samuelson placed first in the Women’s Trials and on August 5, 1984, in Los Angeles at the Olympic Games, Benoit Samuelson triumphed as the first Women’s Marathon Gold Medalist in International Olympic Games history; and*

*WHEREAS, 2024 marks the 40th year anniversary of this historic event and is being celebrated with a reunion in Olympia at which Benoit Samuelson, fellow United States team-mate Julie Brown, and more than 60 of the original 1984 competitors will be in attendance; and*

*NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Olympia City Council does hereby proclaim the week of May 12, 2024 as*

***HISTORIC WOMEN’S OLYMPIC MARATHON TRIAL  
CELEBRATION WEEK***

*in the City of Olympia, and encourage all community members to celebrate this significant monument in sports which advanced sports equity and inspired countless future generations of women to pursue excellence in athletics and other endeavors.*

**SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF  
MAY 2024.**

**OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL**

**Dontae Payne  
Mayor**