

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Olympia Heritage Commission works with other community partners to celebrate the places that tell the stories of our history and culture; and

WHEREAS, this year's focus is the Olympia Oyster, the only oyster native to the west coast of North America; and

WHEREAS, the ancestors of the Squaxin Island and other regional tribes were early leaders in the harvesting and trade of the Olympia Oyster; and

WHEREAS, European-American, Chinese, and Japanese people joined in the 19th-century expansion of the South Sound oyster industry, contributing to Olympia's booming economy; and

WHEREAS, the state capital's popular oyster houses were known throughout Washington as being the places where political deals were made, giving the Olympia Oyster the nickname, "succulent lobbyist"; and

WHEREAS, the increase in water pollution and introduction of other oyster varieties in the early 20th century led to the widespread decline of the Olympia Oyster; and

WHEREAS, the Olympia Oyster has made a comeback thanks to the work of regional oyster farmers, tribes, and conservationists; and

WHEREAS, in addition to be an economic driver, our shoreline is a cultural landscape that is enjoyed by people from around our region; and

WHEREAS, celebrating the places that tell the story of the Olympia Oyster weaves together our past, present, and future experience of our distinctive shoreline;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olympia City Council does hereby proclaim May 2017 to be

PRESERVATION MONTH

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 9th DAY OF

MAY, 2017.

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

***Cheryl Selby
Mayor***