

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia recognizes the Squaxin Island Tribe has a direct lineage as the original inhabitants of the stáćas (Steh-Chass), also known as Budd Inlet; and

WHEREAS, Squaxin people have resided in stáćas (Steh-Chass) since the recession of the glacier at the last Ice Age some 14,000 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Squaxin continues a cultural legacy as "People of the Water", because of the bounty of the region's maritime waterways, artesian, river and creek waters, which have sustained the people for millennia; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia honors and acknowledges the stáćas (Steh-Chass) people who have stewarded this land since time immemorial and who continue to inhabit the area today; and

WHEREAS, both the Squaxin Island Tribe and City of Olympia honor the Medicine Creek Treaty and have established a strong government-to-government relationship between the two sovereigns; and

WHEREAS, the Festival of stáćas (Steh-Chass) on August 17, 2024, is a day to recognize and celebrate the local heritage, culture, and history while honoring past, current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, both the Squaxin Island Tribe and City of Olympia honor the 50th anniversary of Judge Boldt during the Festival of stáćas (Steh-Chass); and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia holds an accord with the Squaxin Island Tribe, which includes an action to the dam removal, the coordination and cooperation to protect shared natural resources, and protection to salmon resources; and

WHEREAS, both the Squaxin Island Tribe and City of Olympia will work in collaboration to strengthen our stewardship of the Salish Sea, building a stronger culture in support of water quality and salmon recovery; and

WHEREAS, concluding the Festival of stáćas (Steh-Chass) for all to participate as witnesses will be The Healing of the Waters Ceremony, focused on the importance of the gift of springs, rivers, streams, lakes and maritime waters; and

WHEREAS, The Squaxin Island Tribe carries a large responsibility to protect and sustain our natural world. The ceremony will symbolize the connectiveness to land, water, and people; and

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olympia City Council
proclaims August 17, 2024 as***

FESTIVAL OF THE STEH-CHASS DAY

***in the City of Olympia and we urge all residents to become more aware of the
significance of this celebration and its role in the heritage of our nation and City.***

***SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 13th DAY OF
AUGUST 2024.***

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

***Dontae Payne
Mayor***