

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, APPROVING THE NAME "REBECCA HOWARD PARK" FOR THE MUNICIPAL PARK LOCATED AT 911 ADAMS STREET

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2018, the Olympia City Council authorized the purchase of real property located at 911 Adams Street, which consisted of two lots, one with a building, and historically referred to as Fertile Grounds; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2021, the City of Olympia designated the 911 Adams Street property as a future urban park site in downtown Olympia, fulfilling a need identified in both the 2016 Parks, Arts, and Recreation Plan and the Downtown Strategy; and

WHEREAS, a group of community stakeholders, neighbors, and City staff have been meeting for over a year to develop a vision for the park that celebrates, honors, and recognizes the local history and contributions of our African American and Black community members; and

WHEREAS, the City received a recommendation from Shawna Hawk, the founder of The Women of Color in Leadership Movement and the Director of Media Island International, to name the future park "Rebecca Howard Park," citing in her letter that this name could set the tone for growth, acknowledgement, and respect for Olympia's Black community; and

WHEREAS, Rebecca Howard was an accomplished Black woman who owned and operated the Pacific House Hotel on what is now Capitol Way from the late 1850s to the 1870s. Renowned for service and hospitality, Rebecca developed a reputation for herself as a savvy businesswoman, a fine hostess, and avid community booster; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee formally received this recommendation at their regularly scheduled meeting on October 21, 2021, and voted unanimously in support of naming the municipal City park the "Rebecca Howard Park;"

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE that the municipal City park located at 911 Adams Street will be named as "Rebecca Howard Park."

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this _____ day of _____ 2021.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Mark Barber

CITY ATTORNEY