

City of St. Helens

PROCLAMATION

By Mayor Jennifer Massey

In Appreciation of Local Businesses and Residents for Their Patience and Support During the St. Helens Streets and Utilities Extension Project

WHEREAS, the City of St. Helens initiated a major Streets and Utilities Extension Project as part of ongoing waterfront redevelopment efforts focused on South First, Cowlitz, and Strand Streets to modernize critical infrastructure and enhance the St. Helens Riverfront District and waterfront for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, this transformative project, spanning over 2.5 years, required extensive construction to expand and upgrade aging water, sewer, and stormwater systems; construct streets, sidewalks, and pedestrian pathways to improve safety, accessibility, and public amenities; and improve key intersections in the City's existing Riverfront District; and

WHEREAS, the Riverwalk Project was also under construction concurrently for one year, which expanded Columbia View Park, creating the first phase of dedicated community access to the waterfront along the former Boise Veneer site, and adding park pathways, water and storm drain utilities, lighting, retaining walls, railings, furnishings, and signage; with construction requiring community events to be temporarily moved to another park in St. Helens for a year which decreased summer foot traffic to the Riverfront District;

WHEREAS, throughout the duration of these projects, downtown businesses and residents experienced significant impacts including street closures, detours, sidewalk removal and replacement, parking disruptions, limited access, intermittent utility outages, and ongoing construction-related challenges such as dust, noise, rock hammering, and vibration from trenching and excavation; and

WHEREAS, the residents, visitors, and especially the small businesses in the project areas showed extraordinary patience, resilience, and flexibility, remaining committed to the vitality of our community despite daily disruptions; and

WHEREAS, their support, cooperation, and determination were instrumental in the successful completion of these ambitious projects, which will yield long-term improvements in public infrastructure, safety, connectivity, and economic opportunity in St. Helens' historic Riverfront District and adjacent waterfront property.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Jennifer Massey**, Mayor of the City of St. Helens, on behalf of the City Council and all City staff, do hereby extend our **deepest appreciation and sincere gratitude** to the businesses, residents, and community members who were affected by the Streets and Utilities Extension Project and Riverwalk Project. Your perseverance and civic spirit made this progress possible.

FURTHER, we invite the community to celebrate this milestone as a symbol of St. Helens' enduring strength, vision, and shared investment in a vibrant future.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of St. Helens to be affixed at St. Helens City Hall on this **18th day of June 2025**.

MAYOR:

*Place
Gold
Seal &
Stamp
Here*

Jennifer Massey, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathy Payne, City Recorder