

Proclamation

Declaring August 17, 2024 as Tonga Day in the City of Tualatin

WHEREAS, Tualatin has seen an increase in Pacific Islander community members, with more than 300 counted in the 2020 US Census; and

WHEREAS, Tonga is an island kingdom in the South Pacific where many have migrated from, seeking work and educational opportunities, with current estimates that about half of all Tongans live abroad; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, including Tongans, comprise about 5 percent of Oregon's population; and

WHEREAS, Tongans have been part of the Tualatin community for many years, with Oregon's first Tongan church sited in Tualatin from 1981 to 1982 at the residence of Sione Fataua; and

WHEREAS, Tongans celebrate their cultural identity through oral literature, singing, and dancing; and

WHEREAS, the Tonga Day 2024 festival will feature a full day of elegant cultural performances, arts and crafts, jewelry, island attire, and more, celebrating Pacific Islander's culture and helping families maintain their traditions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUALATIN, Oregon that Tualatin recognizes the 17th day of August 2024 as Tonga Day. We encourage community members to join our Pacific Islander neighbors at Gateway Discovery Park in Portland for the Tonga Day Festival.

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of August 2024.

CITY OF TUALATIN, OREGON

BY _____
Mayor

ATTEST:

BY _____
City Recorder