

RESOLUTION NO. R2022-013

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Tumwater, Washington, in support of adding the Cowlitz Trail segment of the Oregon Trail, which terminated in Tumwater, to the National Historic Trails System.

WHEREAS, the Bush-Simmons party was the founding element of American colonization of the Puget Sound basin in 1845, forming a settlement in the homeland of the Squaxin tribe known initially as New Market and subsequently Tumwater in what eventually became the state of Washington; and

WHEREAS, the Bush-Simmons party had reached the lower Columbia River Valley in 1844 as part of a larger train of transcontinental emigrants who traversed the overland route to the Oregon Country from the Missouri Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Bush-Simmons party was prompted into taking the difficult route to Puget Sound Country from the vicinity of Fort Vancouver, known as the Cowlitz Trail, an ancient indigenous trade and travel route, never previously tried by American overland emigrants, because George Bush, an African-American, was discouraged from settling amongst other pioneers in the Willamette Valley because of his African heritage; and

WHEREAS, the main trunk of what is commonly known as The Oregon Trail, from Independence, Missouri, to Oregon City, Oregon, was recognized by Congress for incorporation within the system of National Historic Trails, in 1978; and

WHEREAS, the National Historical Trails is an administrative unit of the National Park Service with the Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 the Department of the Interior/National Park Service issued the “Revised Feasibility and Suitability Study for Additional Routes of the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, and Pony Express National Historic Trails”; and

WHEREAS, the Cowlitz Trail segment ending in Tumwater, traversed by the Bush-Simmons party, is among those considered in this study for addition to the National Historic Trails system in the category as an “alternate route”; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize and stipulate that few segments of the pre-Civil War historic trail to the Oregon Country are more worthy of addition

to the National Historic Trails system, not in the least respect because of the requirements of racial justice, than the Cowlitz Trail to Tumwater; and

WHEREAS, the addition of the Cowlitz Trail segment ending in Tumwater would be a western complement to the Selma Montgomery National Historic Trail, established in 1996.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUMWATER, WASHINGTON AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Declaration in Support. The City Council of the City of Tumwater supports adding the Tumwater section of the Cowlitz Trail segment of the Oregon Trail to the system of National Historic Trails. The City Council urges the Thurston County Legislative Delegation to introduce a comparable resolution for adoption by the Washington State Legislature that can then, in turn, be forwarded to the State of Washington congressional delegation in furtherance of adding the Cowlitz Trail segment of the Oregon Trail to the system of National Historic Trails.

Section 2. Ratification. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this Resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 3. Severability. The provisions of this Resolution are declared separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or portion of this Resolution or the invalidity of the application thereof to any person or circumstance, shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Resolution, or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

~ This section left intentionally blank ~

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption and signature as provided by law.

RESOLVED this ____ day of _____, 20____.

CITY OF TUMWATER

Debbie Sullivan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melody Valiant, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Karen Kirkpatrick, City Attorney