

Proclamation

Whereas, Tumwater holds a unique place in Washington State history as the earliest American settlement, co-founded in 1845 by George Bush, a free Black pioneer whose courage, generosity, and vision helped establish the community that would become Tumwater; and his eldest son, William Owen Bush, went on to serve in the state legislature and introduce the bill that established Washington State University; and

Whereas, in 1915, Booker T. Washington established National Negro Health Week to spotlight health disparities affecting Black communities and promote advocacy, education, and community-led solutions. Through the advocacy of Elevate Black Wellness, Black Wellness Week celebrates the traditions, resilience, joy, healing, and culturally rooted approaches to wellness within Black communities; and

Whereas, holistic well-being, encompassing physical, mental, emotional, and social health, is a priority for all communities, and addressing persistent health disparities in Washington State, especially within Black communities, calls for initiatives that are both inclusive and community-driven; and

Whereas, a community-driven approach, focusing on leveraging existing resources and capacities, is essential for the effective implementation of Black Wellness Week, and the City of Tumwater has demonstrated its commitment to equity, inclusion, and belonging through its strategic priorities and community partnerships; and

Whereas, in 2025, Governor Bob Ferguson proclaimed Black Wellness Week in the State of Washington, and cities and counties across Washington have joined in recognizing this observance;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Leatta Dahlhoff, Mayor of the City of Tumwater, do hereby proclaim

April 13-17, 2026

Black Wellness Week

in the City of Tumwater, honoring the legacy of George Bush and the enduring strength of Black communities, and urging all residents to join in this special observance.

Signed in the City of Tumwater, Washington, and recognized on this 17th day of March in the year two thousand twenty-six.



Leatta L Dahlhoff

 Leatta Dahlhoff
 Mayor