

# Whereas

*Whereas,* our view of history shapes the way we view our present; and in order to understand where we are going, it is critical that we understand where we have come from; and

*Whereas,* Vanport, at its peak population of over 40,000, was Oregon's second largest city, and the country's largest public housing project. It was built in 110 days, complete with two school compounds, commercial stores, a movie theater, post office, fire station, hospital, library, recreation center and a sheriff's office; and

*Whereas,* Vanport, a segregated city with a degree of racial harmony, was an unintentional experiment in racial integration, as up to 28 percent of its residents who traveled from all corners of our great nation were African American, when, at the time Vanport was built in 1942, the entire state of Oregon had fewer than 2,000 African Americans; and

*Whereas,* the lowest point in Vanport was 15 feet below the river's water level flow, once the railroad fill broke on May 30, 1948, the resulting flood destroyed the whole town of Vanport, whose multiracial population of whites, blacks, Japanese and Native Americans was down to about 18,500; and

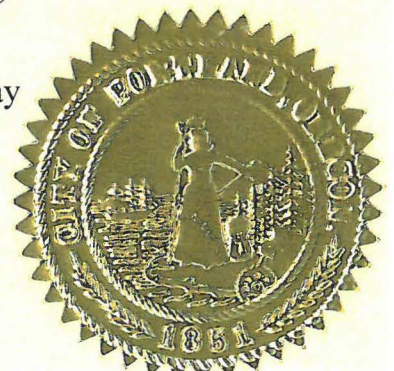
*Whereas,* a dedicated group of Portland residents have organized an inaugural festival to honor and celebrate Vanport as an essential and often-forgotten chapter in Portland's history, as it was the catalyst for the racial mosaic that now exists in Portland and around the state of Oregon;

*Now, therefore,* I, Charlie Hales, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses," do hereby proclaim May 30, 2016 to be

*Vanport Day of Remembrance*

in Portland, and encourage all residents to observe this day

*Charlie Hales*



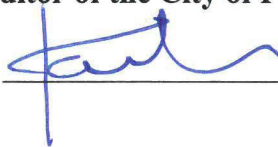
Proclaim May 30, 2016 to be Vanport Day of Remembrance in Portland  
(Proclamation introduced by Mayor Hales)

MAY 25 2016

PLACED ON FILE

Filed MAY 10 2016

**MARY HULL CABALLERO**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		