Proclamation

WHEREAS, young people, teachers, school staff, families, and communities must be free of the violence of racism, transphobia, homophobia, sexism, ableism, and all forms of systemic oppression; and

WHEREAS, K-12 schools must be safe and liberatory learning environments that include and affirm LGBTQI+ young people, especially those who are transgender, nonbinary, intersex, Black, Indigenous, people of color, people with disabilities, and those from all communities that experience marginalization; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQI+ young people frequently experience bias-based bullying and harassment, discrimination, and punitive discipline, and a vast majority of LGBTQI+ students reported hearing anti-LGBTQI+ remarks from students in Washington schools; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQI+ young people are more likely than their non-LGBTQI+ peers to experience mental health concerns, including stress, anxiety, and depression; and

WHEREAS, young people who develop in positive school climates, free of bullying, harassment, and discrimination, report greater physical and psychological safety, greater mental well-being, and improved educational and life outcomes; and

WHEREAS, every young person must have equal educational opportunity and freedom from fear that their basic civil and educational rights will be taken from them, and we must all demand the best possible future for all young people, including those who identify as LGBTQI+, without exception; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, VICTORIA R. WOODARDS, Mayor of the City of Tacoma, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim our support of

THE GAY, LESBIAN, AND STRAIGHT EDUCATION NETWORK

and our support of GLSEN's 2023-2024 Rise Up campaign in its call to action to communities across the country to demand equal educational opportunity, basic civil rights protections, and freedom from erasure for all students, including LGBTQI+ young people in K-12 schools.

WITNESS, THEREFORE, MY HAND AND THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON, This 24th day of June 2023.

Victoria R. Woodards

VICTORIA R. WOODARDS, Mayor