

Whereas

Whereas, the murder of Mulugeta Seraw led to the conviction of the three perpetrators, as well as the bankruptcy of a racist hate group, the White Aryan Resistance (W.A.R.), thus, creating a safer Portland for all; and

Whereas, this horrific hate crime brought Portlanders together to vocally condemn hate in our city and demand justice be served; and

Whereas, Mulugeta's journey from Ethiopia to Portland in pursuit of the American dream is the story of many immigrants today; and

Whereas, Mulugeta's family and friends describe him as a kind, hard-working man whose life was cut too short by a senseless act of anti-Black hate violence; and

Whereas, in the 30 years since Seraw's death, Portland has become the whitest major city in America and the Southern Poverty Law Center finds that the number of hate groups in Oregon have increased; yet, Portland's progressive reputation often hides its lack of diversity, the safe space our demographics create for racial animosity, and the lived experiences of people of color in Portland; and

Whereas, the City has launched efforts like Portland United Against Hate, the Office of Equity and Human Rights, and the New Portlanders Policy Commission to affirm immigrants, refugee, people of color are a part of the services and programming, decision-making, and place-making in the City of Portland; and

Now, therefore, I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses," do hereby proclaim November 13th of each year to be

Mulugeta Seraw Day

in Portland, and encourage all residents to observe this day.

