



## King County

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, in the early fall of 1949, Bruce Frederick Joseph Springsteen was born to the Italian-Irish family of Adele and Douglas Springsteen amid the fading seaside towns of the Jersey Shore; and

**WHEREAS**, after the revolutionary Ed Sullivan Show appearances of Elvis Presley (1956) and the Beatles (1964) showed the young social outcast his future, the 15-year old-Springsteen joined the Castiles, and later established himself as a Jersey Shore musical force with bands including: Child, Steel Mill, Dr. Zoom and the Sonic Boom, and, in the early '70s, the legendary E Street Band; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1972 Springsteen successfully auditioned for John Hammond at Columbia Records, resulting in the albums *Greetings From Asbury Park, N.J.* and *The Wild, The Innocent And The E Street Shuffle*, bringing Springsteen's evocatively peopled storytelling and tales of Jersey Shore legends to the world at large; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1974 he penned his signature song, the anthemic title track for *Born To Run* (1975), hailed as sounding like "a 57 Chevy running on melted down Crystals records" and famously landing Springsteen on the covers of *Time* and *Newsweek* simultaneously; and

**WHEREAS**, Springsteen performed his first Seattle show at the Paramount Theater on October 26, 1975, and played the Seattle Center Coliseum a few days before Christmas of 1978, with the proclamaant, a high school junior, in attendance, and returned to Seattle to perform in 1978, 1980, 1996, 2005, 2008, and 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, Springsteen grew as a cultural force with *Darkness On The Edge of Town* (1978), *The River* (1980) and *Nebraska* (1982), featuring songs giving honor to the everyday lives of working-class America; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1984 he launched into international superstardom with the release of *Born In The USA*, whose seven Top Ten singles exposed Springsteen's work to an audience far beyond his core fan base; and

**WHEREAS**, after taking a more introspective direction with *Tunnel of Love* (1987), Springsteen and the E Street Band joined the Human Rights Now! Tour and circled the globe in support of Amnesty International; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1999 Springsteen was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and subsequently reunited the E Street Band for a worldwide tour, restoring order and harmony to the universe; and

**WHEREAS**, in the wake of 9/11, Springsteen paid tribute to the personal aftermath of that tragedy with *The Rising* (2002), his 12th studio album and the first E Street Band album in 18 years; and

**WHEREAS**, earlier this year, at the spry age of 66, Springsteen clocked his longest US concert ever, at over four hours, and this week releases his autobiography, *Born to Run*, and returns to Martin Luther King County to sign his book and greet Pacific Northwest admirers who have supported his work for going on five decades.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Dow Constantine, Executive of King County, do hereby proclaim October 1, 2016 to be

### **Bruce Springsteen Born to Run Day**

in King County. I encourage all residents to join me in honoring Bruce Springsteen for his artistry, his activism, and his many contributions to the American songbook.

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive