



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