

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING THE ) RESOLUTION NO. 06-3693  
WEEK OF MAY 31 THROUGH JUNE 11, 2006 )  
AS GREAT BLUE HERON WEEK ) Introduced by Councilor McLain

WHEREAS, since 1986 the City of Portland has recognized the Great Blue Heron as the official symbol of the region's efforts to maintain the highest possible standard of livability for its wildlife as well as its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) as the largest heron in North America, standing four feet tall with a wingspan of six feet, gray in color and tinged with very distinctive blue markings, is a familiar and welcome sight in many natural areas throughout the Metro region; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 1991, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 91-1453A ("For the Purpose of Endorsing the Week of June 2-9, 1991 as Great Blue Heron Week"), initiating Metro's participation in the annual Great Blue Heron Week celebration; and

WHEREAS, on May 31, 2006, the Portland City Council will proclaim May 31 through June 11, 2006 as the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Blue Heron Week extending the celebration to 12 days; and

WHEREAS, the Audubon Society of Portland's flyer of the 2006 Annual Great Blue Heron Week declares the theme of Great Blue Heron Week 2006 is "Celebrating Natural Areas, Parks, and Streams" and adds that the bird is symbolic of our region's commitment to protecting and restoring the ecological health of our urban watersheds; and

WHEREAS, Great Blue Heron Week invites residents and visitors to celebrate by enjoying our region's natural areas at many sites already in public ownership such as Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, the Columbia Slough, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Creekside Marsh, Heron Lakes, Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge and Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve; and

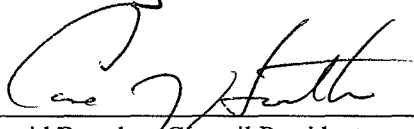
WHEREAS, the Audubon Society of Portland's May 2006 *Warbler* describes this year's Great Blue Heron Week as a celebration of "the region's successful 1995 regional Greenspaces bond measure, which added over 8,200 acres of natural areas, 74 miles of stream and river corridors, and new trails to the region's parks trails, and natural areas system"; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2006, Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 06-3672B, ("For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection") to protect habitat, river and stream frontages and natural areas through land acquisition, restoration and enhancement; including \$44 million to be distributed to cities, counties and local park providers and \$15 million Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program Fund to be provided to local organizations and public entities; and

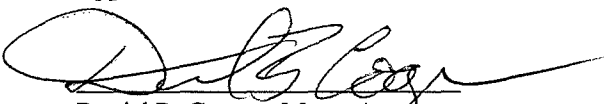
WHEREAS, participants of the Great Blue Heron Week celebration will learn about new natural areas that are important to the region's biological diversity and rich natural area heritage; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that in honor of the Great Blue Heron, a fitting symbol of livability for the entire region's residents, both people and wildlife, the Metro Council proclaims the week of May 31 through June 11, 2006 as the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Blue Heron Week and encourages all citizens to participate in the walks, bike rides and paddles occurring that week in honor of the Great Blue Heron.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2006.

  
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David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:

  
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Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney