

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, following 50 years of research, the first Barnett/Conna Family Reunion begins on Friday, July 27th, 2012, with the theme “Together at Last,” and it will bring together approximately 70 relatives from seven states; and

WHEREAS, the patriarch of the Barnett family, Mr. Powell Barnett, was a true trailblazer in multiple capacities, including his political activism as a “Yellow Dog Democrat,” a Democratic Precinct Committee officer for over 30 years in the 1940s and 50s, a star baseball player with the Royal Colored Giants, and the first African American umpire and organizer of the Semi-pro Baseball Umpires Association in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Powell Barnett continued his legacy of civic engagement through involvement with the YMCA, Seattle Urban League, Leschi Community Council, and the Musicians Union; and his commitment to the community led to the City of Seattle in 1969 naming in his honor Powell Barnett Park, considered one of the best in the country; and

WHEREAS, the Barnett and Conna families are connected through the union of Mr. Barnett and Katherine Conna, a daughter of Mr. John N. Conna, himself a groundbreaker in African American history, having fought in the Civil War as a Captain, served in the Washington Territorial Legislature where he framed the first Civil Rights Legislation, and been a realtor and attorney in Tacoma, Washington; and

WHEREAS, the Conna family arrived in Washington State in 1883, followed by the Barnett family in 1888, and descendants of both families still live here; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Larry Gossett, on behalf of the Metropolitan King County Council, hereby proclaim Saturday, July 28th, 2012, as

BARNETT/CONNA FAMILY REUNION DAY

in Martin Luther King, Jr. County and encourage all residents to join me in saluting the Barnett and Conna families for their significant and historic contributions to our region and nation—fittingly, in the only government territory in our nation named for the legendary civil rights leader, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

DATED this twenty- eighth day of July, 2012.

Larry Gossett, Chair and Councilmember