

December 20, 2021
January 3, 2022

ORDINANCE NO. M- 4361

AN ORDINANCE of the City of Vancouver relating to legal holidays; requiring observance of certain holidays and closure of city offices for the same; amending Section 2.40.020 of the Vancouver Municipal Code; providing for severability; and setting an immediate effective date.

WHEREAS, first-class cities of the State of Washington are vested with the power to prescribe the days and hours when city offices will be kept open for business, and RCW 35.21.175 provides that such hours be established by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the days and hours of business kept by the City of Vancouver were first established by Ordinance M-2851 on December 5, 1989; and

WHEREAS, since this Section was enacted in 1989, the State of Washington has codified additional legal holidays and it is in the public interest to amend the Vancouver Municipal Code to also observe such holidays, and to recognize the people who are honored by such holidays; and

WHEREAS, Washington State law, Section 1, chapter 189, Laws of 1985, established that the third Monday of January should be observed to honor the peace and social justice legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the progress made during the civil rights struggle to end discrimination, poverty and racial disparity in America; and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is day of service when community members across the City of Vancouver strive to make our communities more equitable and take action to build the Beloved Community of Dr. King's dream; and

WHEREAS, the Friday immediately following the fourth Thursday in November, known as Native American Heritage Day, was first recognized as a legal holiday by the Washington Legislature in 2014, and the Vancouver City Council recognizes that the land upon which City of Vancouver is located has been called home by Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. There is a deep, rich Native American history in the City of Vancouver going back 10,000 years. Vancouver area is home to more than 30 Tribal Nations with a resilient and robust urban Native American community. Native American Heritage Day is an opportunity to pay honor and celebrate Indigenous People's cultures, traditions, and history as the first people of our nation; and

WHEREAS, the nineteenth day of June, recognized as Juneteenth, was first recognized as a non-legal holiday by the Washington Legislature in 2007, and later as a legal holiday in 2021; Juneteenth commemorates the day in 1865 when the last of enslaved people in the U.S. received news of their freedom and entitlement to natural born human rights under the law, which had actually been bestowed upon them two and a half years earlier with the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth is an opportunity to uplift the liberation of Black American descendants of enslaved people; and

WHEREAS, with proper notice to the public, the Vancouver City Council conducted a first reading of the proposed ordinance on December 20, 2021, and a public hearing concerning the ordinance and proposed code changes on January 3, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:

Section 1. Section 2.40.020 of the Vancouver Municipal Code entitled “Holidays” as established by Ordinance M-2851 §2 on December 5, 1989, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 2.40.020 Holidays.

The city government shall observe the following holidays and close city offices on: New Year’s Day, President’s Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving Day, Native American Heritage Day ~~the day after Thanksgiving~~ and Christmas Day. Such holidays shall be observed on the day provided for each such holiday by state law at RCW 1.16.050. When a holiday falls on a Sunday, it shall be observed on the following Monday. When a holiday falls on a Saturday, it shall be observed on the preceding Friday.

Section 2. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such order or judgment shall be confined in its operation to the controversy in which it was rendered and shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any parts thereof to any other person or circumstances and to this end the provisions of each clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this law are hereby declared to be severable.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and the City Manager shall cause notice of changes to the 2022 City Council Calendar to be made public accordingly.

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Read First Time: December 20, 2021

Ayes: Councilmembers Fox, Paulsen, Lebowsky, Glover, Stober, Hansen, Mayor McEnerny-Ogle

Nays: None

Absent: None

Read Second Time: January 3, 2022

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: 7-0

Ayes: Councilmembers Harless, Perez, Fox, Paulsen, Stober, Hansen, Mayor McEnerny-Ogle

Nays: None

Absent: None

SIGNED this 3rd day of January, 2022.

DocuSigned by:
Anne McEnerny-Ogle
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Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

DocuSigned by:
Natasha Ramras
BCF6734E40E94AE...
Natasha Ramras, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

DocuSigned by:
Jonathan Young
9A7DC2E31F694A2...
Jonathan Young, City Attorney

SUMMARY

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The full text of this ordinance will be mailed upon request. Contact Raelyn McJilton, Records Officer at 487-8711, or via www.cityofvancouver.us (Go to City Government and Public Records).