

May 16, 2023

Hello Mayor Graham, City Councilors and Mr. Lessard,

Today, is the sixth anniversary of the City of Ashland becoming a City of Peace and joining the International Cities of Peace Association. On May 16, 2017 Mayor John Stromberg, City Councilors Greg Lemhouse, Traci Darrow, Michael Morris, Rich Rosenthal, Stef Seffinger, and Dennis Slattery had the inspired vision and thoughtful leadership to unanimously proclaim Ashland as a City of Peace.

In part the proclamation reads, "NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council and Mayor, on behalf of the citizens of Ashland, do proclaim that the City of Ashland, Oregon, is a City of Peace in perpetuity and encourage city and community leaders to work with concerned citizens to develop policies and procedures that promote a culture of peace in our region."

Ashland was the 163rd International City of Peace and from that time until today we have a known reputation in the current 380 International Cities of Peace due to the unique way we created this important infrastructure of peace. New City of Peace Mesa AZ wants to replicate the Ashland Culture of Peace Commission and a noted City of Peace in Ireland, also a original World Peace Flame host, wants to engage with us as we host a World Peace Flame.

The primary focus of an International City of Peace is on safety, prosperity, and quality of life and each of us have a daily role and influence in co-creating this desired environment. Let us also be clear, being a City of Peace not only is a guide in creating the city we want to be, this is also an attractor for visitors and an additional inspiring brand as we evolve to become our vision.

On Friday, May 26 at 5:00 pm there will be the opening of the Ashland City of Peace information hub at Catalyst Ashland, 357 E Main St, being hosted by Precious Yamaguchi and Andres Rivero. Everyone is invited.

I conclude with a comment sent to me from our Oregon State Representative Pam Marsh. "A thousand thanks for your devotion to Ashland and for always reminding us that we choose the community we want to be. You have been our constant reminder that our actions here in our tiny community matter — both to us and as a contribution to the world stage."

Additionally, we do not change the old, we create the new.


Thank you for your attention.



David Wick

Executive Director

Ashland Culture of Peace Commission



PROCLAMATION

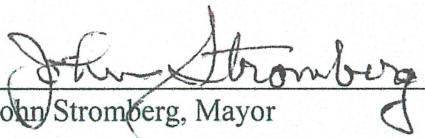
- On March 17, 2015, the Ashland Mayor and City Council proclaimed support for a Culture of Peace community.
- On September 21, 2015, the United Nations International Day of Peace, the Ashland Culture Of Peace Commission was launched as a citizens commission.
- The core and strength of our community is based on relationships of mutual respect, integrity, and recognition of the inherent value of each person in the diversity of our community.
- Official recognition of Ashland as an International City of Peace will provide inspiration for all citizens to create an emerging, evolving, living model for thriving together as fellow humans.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council and Mayor, on behalf of the citizens of Ashland, do proclaim that the City of Ashland, Oregon, is a

City of Peace

in perpetuity and encourage city and community leaders to work with concerned citizens to develop policies and procedures that promote a culture of peace in our region.

Dated this 16th day of May, 2017



John Stromberg, Mayor



Dana Smith, Assistant City Recorder

