

# Whereas

*Whereas*, Reverend Dr. James Lawson Jr. was regarded as, “the greatest teacher of nonviolence in America,” by Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and, “the architect of the Civil Rights movement,” by Representative John Lewis; and

*Whereas*, as a Christian missionary in India in the 1950’s, Dr. Lawson learned about satyagraha, a philosophy of nonviolent resistance, and a method to fighting for social justice, developed by Mahatma Gandhi; and

*Whereas*, while a student at the Divinity School of Vanderbilt University, he provided nonviolence training workshops, informed by satyagraha, to many students and activists, including future leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, such as Diane Nash, James Bevel and Representative John Lewis; and

*Whereas*, his trainees launched the Nashville sit-ins, a campaign of nonviolent direct action to end racial segregation at restaurant lunch counters; and

*Whereas*, Dr. Lawson was among many transformative African American leaders who helped to end legal racial segregation in the U.S.; and

*Whereas*, throughout this life, Dr. Lawson has continued to teach and lead in the principles of nonviolent social resistance, and started the James Lawson Institute; and

*Whereas*, in 2018, Dr. Lawson was nominated to receive the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the nation’s highest honors; and

*Whereas*, today, we celebrate Dr. Lawson, for his incredible career in civil and human rights, and for his inspirational leadership in continuing to transform the United States, and we welcome him to the Portland City Council;

*Now, therefore*, I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the “City of Roses,” do hereby proclaim April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to be

*Reverend Dr. James Lawson Jr. Day*

in Portland, and encourage all residents to observe this day.