

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Ruby Bridges is an icon of the American civil rights movement, who at the age of six years old in 1960, became the youngest member to integrate public schools in the American South; and

**WHEREAS**, segregation continued to exist throughout the country despite the 1954 ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* barring any state laws allowing racial segregation in public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Ruby Bridges was the lone student of her group of African-American students to integrate William Frantz Elementary School in the City of New Orleans on November 14, 1960, being escorted by four federal agents while bravely walking into school amongst protestors full of hatred and anger; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ruby Bridges Foundation states, "Ruby believes the most important thing is uniting students. That is why this walk to school day is so important. It is a call to action. This day will be a day of dialogue encouraging students to participate in discussions about racism, bullying and youth activism on this day and throughout the school year. What better way to honor Ruby's legacy."

**WHEREAS**, the Salem-Keizer Safe Routes to School program encourages children to walk and roll to school to develop life-long skills and independence in their community; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Chris Hoy, Mayor of the City of Salem, do hereby proclaim November 14th, 2024, as

### **RUBY BRIDGES DAY**

and ask the community to observe this day by participating in a local walk to school event and by committing to treating everyone with compassion and equality.

DATED this twelfth day of November 2024.



Chris Hoy  
Mayor

