



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** RES 21-969, **Version:** 1

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Recognizing and celebrating the 35th Annual 4th of July Portland Avenue parade and social.

WHEREAS, Mary Landreman and Patricia Schaffner, neighbors who lived on Portland Avenue, in 1986 decided to hold an informal parade on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to show off their new babies; and

WHEREAS, that initial parade on Portland Avenue between Dunlap and Griggs Avenues included several other neighbors on decorated bicycles and a two-person marching band; and

WHEREAS, the popularity of the initial parade encouraged the residents on the block to continue the tradition in subsequent years; and

WHEREAS, residents on the block enhanced the parade by bringing food to share once the parade ended; and

WHEREAS, younger residents on the block began to take leadership roles by carrying the United States flag to lead off the parade; and

WHEREAS, members of the Lex-Ham Community Band joined the event each year to provide a marching band for the parade; and

WHEREAS, word about the annual event spread and residents from the surrounding blocks in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood and beyond began to come and participate; and

WHEREAS, a community sing-along of patriotic songs was added to start off the event each year; and

WHEREAS, to highlight the history of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and to increase the civic knowledge of the residents, an annual reading of the Declaration of Independence by members of the community was added to the event; and

WHEREAS, a “Human Flag” is formed each year by residents of all ages to symbolize how our country depends on all residents to participate in its civic life; and

WHEREAS, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Portland Avenue Parade and Social has been happening as a grass-roots civic engagement and community-building event annually every year since 1986; and now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the City of Saint Paul recognizes and celebrates the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Portland Avenue Parade and Social.