

CITY OF
PORTLAND

Whereas

Whereas, hunger remains a huge problem in Oregon and southwest Washington and in an average month, an estimated 194,000 people eat meals from an emergency box; and

Whereas, the Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival is operated by Oregon Food Bank, a charitable nonprofit organization, located in Portland and the hub of the Oregon Food Bank Network, serving the entire state of Oregon as well as Clark County, Washington; and

Whereas, Oregon Food Bank collected and distributed 34.3 million pounds of food during the 2005-06 fiscal year; and

Whereas, Oregon Food Bank also addresses the root cause of hunger through public policy advocacy and through programs such as nutrition education and learning gardens; and

Whereas, the Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival is Oregon Food Bank's largest annual fundraiser and during its 20 year history, has raised 1.2 million pounds of food and more than 3.4 million dollars to help people in need not only in Portland but throughout Oregon and Clark County; and

Whereas, the Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival takes place in one of the most beautiful settings of any festival in the world-at Tom McCall park on the grassy banks of the Willamette River in beautiful downtown Portland; and

Whereas, the Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival, which began in 1988 as a small, modest, one day festival, has grown to be the largest blues festival west of Chicago and the second largest festival in the nation with a diverse audience of 125,000 people from around the world; and

Whereas, 58 area businesses help support the Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival through their generous sponsorship and 1,500 volunteers step forward to help the festival run smoothly; and

Whereas, 100% of suggested gate donations of \$8.00 and two cans of food per day support Oregon Food Bank's mission to help fight hunger and its root causes; and

Whereas, the Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival is a place for all members of our diverse area to come together, a place to hear music that celebrates life by telling the story of our human struggles and our efforts to overcome them, a place to volunteer, a place to fight hunger, and a place to build a caring community that helps those in need;

Now, therefore, I, Tom Potter, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses," do hereby proclaim July 4-8, 2007 to be

The Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival Week

in Portland, and encourage all residents to observe this 20th year anniversary

Tom Potter

