

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, according to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, on Valentine’s Day, heart bombing is the act of showering an older or historic place with tangible expressions of affection and devotion; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has identified and mapped over 1,100 unreinforced masonry buildings in the city with over 33,000 people currently living, working, and frequenting these buildings; and

WHEREAS, ASAP! the Alliance for Safety, Affordability and Preservation of unreinforced masonry buildings, has brought together over 100 stakeholders including community groups, developers, URM property owners, historic preservation advocates, historians, architects, engineers, and affordable housing advocates; and

WHEREAS, ASAP! stakeholders seek the development of a URM seismic retrofit program, including financing mechanisms, with City-funded technical experts to focus on the significant cultural and architectural URMs; and

WHEREAS, in response, the City Council unanimously adopted RESOLUTION 32033 on December 13, 2021, to develop a phased program for the seismic retrofits of URMs with a timeline for compliance, enforcement strategy, and a variety of potential funding opportunities and financial incentives to reduce the financial burden of required seismic retrofits for URMs; and

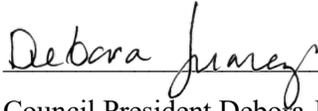
WHEREAS, RESOLUTION 32033 directs City departments to develop strategies to mitigate displacement and higher commercial and residential rents as a result of URM retrofits; and

WHEREAS, the City has a long history of attempting to address the safety risks posed by URMs, beginning with the Council’s adoption of a structural standard for all URMs in the 1970s, which was later repealed due to the costs of implementing the upgrades, and additional efforts in 2008, 2011, 2012, 2017; and

WHEREAS, another event like the 2001 Nisqually earthquake, or worse, has the potential to cause widespread death and injury, displace thousands of our region's most vulnerable residents and small businesses, and permanently damage some of our most distinctive historic structures.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL PROCLAIM:

Significant cultural and architectural Unreinforced Masonry (URM) buildings are some of Seattle's most beloved community gathering places, the sweethearts, and icons of many neighborhoods. On this Valentine's Day, the Seattle City Council is pledging its adoration for our architectural and cultural past while reimagining the future with safe, seismically upgraded masonry buildings.



Council President Debora Juarez



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis



Councilmember Tammy J. Morales



Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda



Councilmember Sara Nelson



Councilmember Alex Pedersen



Councilmember Kshama Sawant



Councilmember Dan Strauss

