



King County

# Metropolitan King County Council

## PROCLAMATION

*WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph "Joe" Brazil was born and raised in Detroit and made Seattle his home in 1962, where he mesmerized the jazz scene with a synergistic energy and musical creativity, the likes of which had not been seen before; and*

*WHEREAS, Joe Brazil was the first African American hired at the University of Washington, where he taught for several years as a History of Jazz instructor, and despite opposition and racism, created a History of Jazz curriculum, with "standing room only" sessions that exposed students to a myriad musical greats; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1969, the Black Academy of Music (BAM) was founded to serve the community and youth with cultural enrichment programs and a sense of history, and it also included a prison outreach program; and*

*WHEREAS, throughout his years of service, Joe Brazil, made immense contributions as a jazz legend, making connections and bridging gaps between novice and expert musicians across generations; and*

*WHEREAS, Joe Brazil continued as a visiting lecturer and musician at many schools and colleges, emphasizing the importance of history and music; and*

*WHEREAS, Joe Brazil was a musical legend whose name belongs alongside John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Dizzie Gillespie, and McCoy Tyner; and*

*WHEREAS, Joe Brazil passed away on August 6, 2008, but his legacy as the founder of the Black Academy of Music continues;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, King County Councilmember Larry Gossett, proclaim September 8, 2018, as*

### ***Black Academy of Music ReUnion 2018 Day***

*in King County, as former students, mentees, and friends gather in honor of the living legacy of Joe Brazil, and ask all residents to join in this remembrance and celebration of a musical giant.*

*DATED this eighth day of September, 2018.*

  
Larry Gossett, Councilmember  
District Two