

*Whereas*

*Whereas*, during this century millions of children, women and men have been victims of unimaginable atrocities that deeply shock the conscience of humanity; and

*Whereas*, grave crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world; and

*Whereas*, those responsible for such crimes have largely gone unpunished throughout history; and

*Whereas*, efforts to hold those responsible for such crimes will contribute to prevention and serve as a catalyst for ending the armed conflicts in which such crimes are often committed; and

*Whereas*, it is the common responsibility of all countries to work together to ensure that perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice; and

*Whereas*, on July 17, 1998 governments from throughout the world came together in Rome, Italy to establish the International Criminal Court ("ICC"), the world's first permanent court to prosecute individuals responsible for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, when the courts of the countries in which these crimes were committed are unable or unwilling to do so; and

*Whereas*, the ICC is today investigating those responsible for atrocities perpetrated in Northern Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan, which together represent some of the most protracted, violent conflicts in the world;

*Now, therefore*, I, Tom Potter, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses," do hereby proclaim July 17, 2007 to be

*International Justice Day*

in Portland, and encourage all residents to observe this day.

*Tom Potter*

