

CITY OF YAKIMA

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Henry Beauchamp was 13 years old when he first arrived in Yakima in the mid-1940s when his family moved from its hometown of Clinton, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Henry first worked as a journeyman brick mason before answering the call to public service; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the need for a multi-service community center in Yakima but with no fundraising experience, Henry nonetheless led the effort to secure more than a half-million dollars to build the Southeast Yakima Community Center, and served as the center's first director when it opened in 1971; and

WHEREAS, inspired by Dr. Leon Sullivan, founder of the Opportunity Industrialization Centers of America, in 1978 Henry was at the forefront of opening an OIC branch in Yakima and served as the branch's executive director for nearly 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Henry expanded his service to others in 1977 when he was elected to the Yakima City Council on which he served for 24 years including as assistant mayor and mayor; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, in honor of his lifetime of commitment to leading the Yakima community toward a more equitable future, the Southeast Yakima Community Center he helped found was renamed the Henry Beauchamp, Jr. Community Center,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathy Coffey, Mayor of the City of Yakima and on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, November 6th as

“HENRY BEAUCHAMP DAY”

in the City of Yakima and encourage all citizens to celebrate the extraordinary legacy of statesmanship and leadership exemplified by Henry Beauchamp and to embrace the qualities and ideals of service to others he demonstrated throughout his illustrious career and life.

Dated this 6th day of November 2018

Kathy Coffey, Mayor