

# *CITY OF YAKIMA*

## *PROCLAMATION*

*WHEREAS, every missing person is someone's child, they could be someone's brother or sister, husband or wife, father or mother and more than likely, they are someone's friend; and*

*WHEREAS, there are currently 19 missing persons and 2 unidentified persons from Yakima County entered into the NamUs System, 8 of the missing persons are from right here in our city, 7 out of the 8 of these are now "cold cases"; and*

*WHEREAS, the missing have family and friends that love them and miss them and continue to search for them no matter how long they have been missing and their lives are in limbo because they don't know if their loved one is alive or dead, they don't know if they should continue to hope or if they should begin to grieve – they want their missing loved one found; and*

*WHEREAS, if you are concerned for someone's safety and welfare and do not know their whereabouts you should file a missing person report with law enforcement – there is NO waiting period; and*

*WHEREAS, law enforcement should take ALL missing person cases seriously and they should investigate them as a possible homicide from the moment a missing report is filed because the first 48 hours are the most crucial for collecting evidence that can help solve a case; and*

*WHEREAS, the chances of solving a case after the first 48 hours decreases drastically so it's better to investigate and not need the information then wait for a month or more to decide that it is needed and no evidence is left; and*

*WHEREAS, every missing person is a human being that deserves to be looked for regardless of their age, gender, or nationality.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I Kathy Coffey, Mayor of the City of Yakima and on behalf of the Yakima City Council, do hereby proclaim May 2019 as*

## *“MISSING PERSONS AWARENESS MONTH”*

*in the City of Yakima and ask all people to join me in this special observance.*

*Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019*

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*Kathy Coffey, Mayor*