

CITY OF YAKIMA PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, adequate housing is essential for healthy families and communities; and

WHEREAS, winter poses extreme hardship for the 22,000 homeless counted this year in Washington State; the 228 men, women and children who are unsheltered in Yakima County, with another 410 in either emergency shelters or transitional housing; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that without the coordinated efforts of local service providers and community volunteers, those numbers would be higher; and

WHEREAS, in remembering the approximately 40 people known to have died in Yakima this year without homes and those unknown to us in name who have died earlier than they should because of experiencing homelessness in their lives; and

WHEREAS, December 21st has been designated National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day by the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council and is so recognized by cities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, in this season of generosity and sharing, citizens of Yakima are encouraged to commit themselves to promoting compassion and concern for all brothers and sisters, especially those who are poor and homeless; and

WHEREAS, in remembering those who have died on the streets, the cause of ending homelessness is kept urgent, as is the community's collective commitment to preventing such deaths in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Kathy Coffey, Mayor of the City of Yakima and on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim Saturday, December 21, 2019, as

“Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day”

in the City of Yakima in recognition of the people who have died without a home, from ailments or conditions directly related to homelessness, I hereby ask all residents to take a moment of silence in remembrance and encourage support for all local efforts to eliminate homelessness in our community.

Dated this 10th day of December, 2019

Kathy Coffey, Mayor