

CITY OF YAKIMA PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, our society and legal system depend on the provision of equal justice for all, regardless of income;

WHEREAS, Washington faces a civil justice crisis that leaves three-quarters of low-income residents without access to justice when they need it most, forced to appear in civil court without a lawyer; and

WHEREAS, civil legal aid is a lifeline in times of crisis and a path out of poverty for Washingtonians facing insecurity with their employment and income, housing, healthcare, education, and family safety; and

WHEREAS, civil legal aid programs in Washington are overwhelmed with cases and requests for assistance and, due to a lack of adequate funding, are unable to serve the majority of people facing dire civil legal problems; and

WHEREAS, access to a civil legal aid attorney can be the difference in keeping a person safe in their home, secure in their job, or protected from illness or family violence; and

WHEREAS, the Yakima County Volunteer Attorney Services is working to expand the number of attorneys volunteering to bridge the justice gap and provide critically needed civil legal aid services; and

WHEREAS, during October 25-31, 2020, communities, bar associations, the justice system, businesses, non-profit organizations, and corporate and governmental entities will recognize these pro bono efforts statewide; and

WHEREAS, throughout 2019, over 80 lawyers donated over 580 hours to increase access to justice in Yakima County;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Patricia Byers, Mayor of the City of Yakima and on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim the week of October 25 through 31, 2020 as

“PRO BONO WEEK”

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

Dated this 20th day of October, 2020

Patricia Byers, Mayor