

CITY OF YAKIMA PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, a missing person is someone who has disappeared and their status as alive or dead cannot be confirmed as their location and fate are not known; and

WHEREAS, when any person goes missing it can be a senior citizen, adult, teenager, or a child, it is important that they do not become merely a statistic. The circumstances leading to a disappearance are varied, and could be due to a natural disaster, by their own decision, as in runaway or suicide or due to foul play, for example, kidnapping, sex trafficking, or murder; and

WHEREAS, anyone, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, education or social status could someday have a loved one go missing or even go missing themselves; and

WHEREAS, at any given time there are as many as 100,000 active missing persons cases in the United States – the National Institute of Justice has called this “The Nations Silent Mass Disaster;” and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are more than 700 families with missing loved ones in the State of Washington and there are more than 40,000 sets of unidentified human remain being held in the offices of coroners/medical examiners across the United States and 100 or more of those are in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, the family and friends of a missing person are now living their lives in limbo – uncertain if they should continue to hope or if they should begin to grieve. Lack of closure is extremely painful and can have long lasting effects that can make it difficult to move forward in life; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that for every missing person there are at least 12 people on average that are affected emotionally, physically, psychologically, or financially; and

WHEREAS, missing persons that are homeless, or suffer from mental disorders or those that are addicted to drugs/alcohol often receive very little attention from law enforcement and get very little sympathy from the public; and

WHEREAS, regardless of age EVERY missing and unidentified person IS someone’s child; 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 - there is NO waiting period.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Patricia Byers, Mayor of the City of Yakima and on behalf of the Yakima City Council, do hereby proclaim May 2021 as

“MISSING & UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS AWARENESS MONTH”

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

Dated this 4th day of May, 2021

Patricia Byers, Mayor