

CITY OF YAKIMA P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, 2021 is the 156th year of Juneteenth Freedom Day, a Nationally recognized day which celebrates the rich culture, legacy, and heritage of African Americans in the state of Washington; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the abolition of slavery in the United States; dating back to June 19, 1865 when union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas with news that the Civil War was ended, freeing all of the enslaved, giving all African Americans in America an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property; and

WHEREAS, the Yakima County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race; and

WHEREAS, we implore the City of Yakima to ensure the symbolic events of 1865 are not forgotten in the state of Washington and encourage all residents to recognize and honor the significance of Juneteenth festivities; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2021, Governor Jay Inslee officially declared Juneteenth an official holiday in the state of Washington.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patricia Byers, Mayor of the City of Yakima and on behalf of the Yakima City Council, do hereby proclaim the week of June 14 through June 20, 2021 as

“Juneteenth Freedom Week”

throughout the city of Yakima.

Dated this 15th day of June, 2021

Patricia Byers, Mayor