

CITY OF YAKIMA PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 2023 is the 158th year of Juneteenth Freedom Day, a Federally 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 dedicated to ensuring a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race; and

WHEREAS, the Yakima County NAACP implores the city of Yakima to ensure the symbolic events of 1865 are not forgotten in the state of Washington.

NOW, Therefore, I, Janice Deccio, Mayor of the City of Yakima and on behalf of the Yakima City Council, do hereby proclaim the week of June 12 through June 19, 2023 as

“JUNETEENTH FREEDOM WEEK”

throughout the city of Yakima and encourage all residents to recognize and honor the significance of Juneteenth festivities.

Dated this 6th day of June, 2023

Janice Deccio, Mayor