



# PROCLAMATION

## National Native American Heritage Month

**Whereas**, in 1990, President George H. W. Bush declared the month of November as National Native American Heritage Month; and

**Whereas**, the United States currently recognizes 574 American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, of which twenty-nine are located in Washington State; and

**Whereas**, as the first to live on this land, Native Americans and their traditions and values inspired—and continue to inspire — the ideals of self-governance, determination, and care for the earth; and

**Whereas**, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation settled on approximately ten million acres of land forming what is now known as Central Washington State; and

**Whereas**, the *K'titaas* (translated as “Kittitas”) Valley has been a bountiful source for game, roots, berries, and medicines that have sustained Native communities for thousands of years; and

**Whereas**, the City of Ellensburg is located where the Yakama Bands of *Pshwanapum* and *K'titaas* people have lived and hosted thousands of travelers, both Indigenous and Europeans, from around the Pacific Northwest to trade, display craftsmanship, and engage in sports and competition; and

**Whereas**, the City of Ellensburg recognizes and honors the descendants, living or not, of all Native Nations residing herein and contributing to the strength and vibrance of a diverse community; and

**Whereas**, Ida Joseph Nason Aronica, matriarch of the Kittitas band and great-granddaughter of Chief Owhi of the Yakama tribe, first settled on the site of the current rodeo grounds in Ellensburg, WA in 1888 and is noted in history for her basket weaving and beading skills as well as her dedication to preserving the culture and traditions of the Kittitas Band of the Yakama nation; and

**Whereas**, the City of Ellensburg acknowledges and reveres the land on which we are located as ceded land of the Yakama Nation.

**Now, Therefore**, the City Council of the City of Ellensburg does hereby proclaim November 2021 as Native American Heritage Month in Ellensburg and asks all citizens to join in this observance by building bridges of understanding and friendship with members of the Yakama Nation and all of our Native American neighbors.

Dated this 1st day of November, 2021.

Attest: Dust Davin

Deputy City Clerk

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Mayor 