

CITY OF YAKIMA PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Yakima's three community health centers are a vital part of our community's health care system; and

WHEREAS, our community's health centers expand access to quality health care for all people, helping to contain costs by encouraging prevention and integrating the delivery of primary care with outreach, patient education, translation, and other enabling services; and

WHEREAS, during National Community Health Center Week, we annually recognize the importance of these health centers for their role in providing affordable and accessible care; and

WHEREAS, these community health centers also play a significant role as major local employers and an important source of economic growth; and

WHEREAS, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, partnering with the other community health centers and many agencies in the City of Yakima, has led the effort to help uninsured residents enroll in a health insurance plan that meets their needs and their budget; and

WHEREAS, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services has grown from a staff of five caring for about 20 patients to serving some 80,000 patients up and down the Yakima Valley,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Avina Gutiérrez, Mayor of the City of Yakima and on behalf of the Yakima City Council, do hereby proclaim the week of August 7-13, 2016 as

"NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK"

in the city of Yakima and urge our community to recognize the multitude of ways in which community health centers are transforming care as INNOVATORS IN HEALTH CARE.



Dated this 2nd day of August, 2016

Avina Gutiérrez, Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, for over 50 years, community health centers have provided high-quality, affordable health care in our nation's underserved communities, demonstrating that locally-governed health care can improve lives while lowering costs; and.

WHEREAS, health centers provide high quality, cost effective, and accessible primary and preventive care, including integrated medical, dental, vision, behavioral health, and pharmacy services, to all individuals regardless of insurance status or ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, health centers are located in medically-underserved areas and are locally controlled by patient-majority boards; and

WHEREAS, the health center model continues to prove an effective means of reducing health care disparities and overcoming barriers to health care access and in doing so, improves health care outcomes and reduces costs; and

WHEREAS, Washington State hosts 28 community health centers representing 250 clinics and 7,500 full time jobs, including 275 employed by Neighborhood Health in Yakima County; that will celebrate Community Health Center Week, Aug. 7-13;

The Yakima County Board of Commissioners does hereby declare Aug. 7-13, 2016 to be National Community Health Center week with the theme: Community Health Centers: Innovators in Health Care.

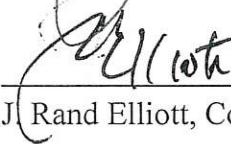
DONE this 9th day of August, 2016



Michael D. Leita, Chairman



Kevin J. Bouchey, Commissioner



J. Rand Elliott, Commissioner

*Constituting the Board of County Commissioners
for Yakima County, Washington*



Attest: Linda Kay O'Hara
Deputy Clerk of the Board

