



# City of Ellensburg

## 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 29 are located in Washington State; and

**Whereas**, in this month, indigenous people are acknowledged for and encouraged to share their culture, traditions, music, crafts, dance, and ways and concepts of life; 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 and determination that are the framework of our Nation; and

**Whereas**, approximately ten million acres of land, forming this region known as Central Washington State, were opened to settlement by United States residents through the Treaty with the Yakamas of 1855, signed June 9, 1855 at the Walla Walla Treaty and Council Grounds; and

**Whereas**, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation were represented in the Treaty of 1855 by 14 Head Chiefs who negotiated with the United States government to reserve the Yakama Reservation and rights for all Yakamas to hunt, fish, and gather food and medicines throughout the Treaty Territory in recognition of their traditional and customary ways since time immemorial; and

**Whereas**, the *K'títaas* (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 *Pshwánapum* and *K'títaas* people lived and hosted thousands of travelers, both indigenous people and Europeans, from around the Pacific Northwest to trade, display craftsmanship, and engage in sports and competition; and


**Whereas**, the City of Ellensburg supports the living descendants of those *Pshwánapum* and *K'títaas* Bands in the practice, exercise, and teaching of their cultural language and heritage; and

**Whereas**, the City of Ellensburg recognizes and honors the living descendants of all Native Nations residing herein and contributing to the strength and vibrancy of diverse community.

**Now, Therefore**, the City Council of the City of Ellensburg does hereby proclaim November 2020 as Native American Heritage Month in Ellensburg and encourages 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 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2020.

Attest:   
City Clerk

  
Bruce Tabb  
Mayor