

**TOWN OF HARRAH EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Washington and much of the world, is experiencing an outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus, known as COVID-19; and,

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is easily spread from person to person; and,

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020 the Secretary of the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services declared a public emergency effective January 27, 2020 for COVID-19; and,

**WHEREAS**, on February 29, 2020 the Governor of the State of Washington signed a proclamation declaring that a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State, and directed that the plans and procedures of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented; and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, the Board of Yakima County Commissioners signed a declaration of Emergency relating to the Corona Virus in Yakima County; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Harrah has by resolution No. 2019-10 adopted the 2019 Yakima County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan; and,

**WHEREAS**, One or more COVID-19 cases have now occurred in Yakima County, and disruption of important services, damage to life, or damage to property can be expected from the described conditions; and,

**WHEREAS**, while it is believed that currently the risk of the spread of the Virus in the Town of Harrah remains low, the documented presence and the impact of the virus within Yakima County and its potential to spread rapidly in the region if steps are not taken to contain or slow the spread constitutes an emergency; and,

**WHEREAS**, measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety and welfare within the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, City resources related to contact tracing, disease investigation and prevention, continuity of operations, public information and funding, all of which affect the Town of Harrah are expected to be severely affected and/or exhausted,

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Emergency Declaration. A state of emergency specifically covered under Chapter 38.52 RCW, exists in the Town of Harrah, Washington, as a result of the spread of COVID-19 in Yakima County. The outbreak of this Virus and the effects of its extreme risk of person to person transmission throughout the country, the State of Washington, and Yakima County significantly impacts the life and health of those persons

living and working in the Town of Harrah, as well as the continuity of operations and government at the Town, and is a public emergency that affects, life, health, property and the public peace.

2. Emergency Powers. All emergency powers and authority set forth in RCW 38.52.070 are hereby invoked, including without limitation the right to enter into contract, employ temporary workers and incur obligations without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law, (with the exception of mandatory constitutional requirements).

3. State and Federal Assistance. The Mayor and his/her designee are authorized to request all available State and Federal assistance necessary to respond to this emergency.

4. Response Declaration. No guarantee is implied by the actions of the Town of Harrah authorized herein. There is no perfect emergency response system and, in any given set of circumstances, the Town of Harrah and its assets and systems may be overwhelmed and the Town can only endeavor to make every reasonable effort to respond based on the situation, and information and resources available at this time.

5. Term of Declaration. The emergency declared herein shall be in place immediately upon the date of adoption and continue and shall remain in place until terminated, extended or amended by further Proclamation of the Mayor and or action of the Town Council.

6. Notice. A copy of this declaration, to the extent practicable, shall be posted at the Town's regular locations for official notices and shall be made available to members of the news media and the general public and appropriate federal state, county and regional and local agencies

Done this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020



Barbara Harrer, Mayor