

Memorandum
April 30, 2009

TO: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Sonya Claar Tee, Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Proclamation Process

At the April 21, 2009 City Council meeting, citizen Robbie Byrne asked how a proclamation is brought forward and wanted an explanation of why Cinco de Mayo gets declared a full week when other holidays, e.g. Memorial Day, Veterans Day, President's Day and the 4th of July do not.

As you know, proclamations are not a law and are not binding. Attached is a copy of our proclamation issuance guidelines, which was based on the City of Seattle's process. Finally, proclamation time-frames are listed as requested.

City of Yakima Proclamation Issuance Guidelines

Proclamations

Proclamations issued by the Mayor's Office ideally provide an opportunity for the Mayor to recognize exceptional events and people when he cannot acknowledge them in person. The goal of a proclamation is to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary achievements of Yakima citizens and non-profit organizations, honor occasions of importance and significance, and increase public awareness of issues to improve the well being of the people of this city.

Proclamation Policy

1. We ask that requests be submitted 30 days prior to the due date.
2. All requests should clearly include the name, address and telephone number of the person making the request, as well as to who and where the document should be addressed and mailed (if different from the requester). If the proclamation is to be read and presented at a Council meeting, please provide the name of the person accepting the proclamation at least two days prior to the meeting.
3. Requests should include draft language and background information about an exceptional event and sponsoring organization that could be used to prepare the proclamation.
4. Each renewal request will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
5. We are unable to accommodate proclamations for out-of-city events or for-profit causes.
6. We ask that National or International groups requesting proclamations must have an in-city sponsor.

Submission of a proclamation request does not guarantee issuance. Due to the volume of submissions received, we cannot grant every request. However, we want to recognize and honor your organization's outstanding contributions, commitment, and excellence to our community.

Greetings/Other Recognition

Greetings from the Mayor or other forms of recognition can be issued when a proclamation request doesn't meet guidelines. Greetings and/or other recognition shall be used to honor special events or individuals within the City of Yakima. These may include conventions, community celebrations, award ceremonies, college graduations, etc. The Mayor also strongly encourages personal achievement and wishes to showcase significant milestones in the lives of Yakima residents. We ask that recognitions please be submitted 30 days prior to due date, to be issued to Yakima residents.

Please e-mail requests to ccouncil@ci.yakima.wa.us. If you have draft language, please include it as an attachment or paste it into the body of the e-mail. You may also fax it to us at (509) 576-6335.