



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**Parks & Community Services**  
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[www.kirklandwa.gov](http://www.kirklandwa.gov)

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Lynn Zwaagstra, Director  
Leslie R Miller, Human Services Supervisor

**Date:** March 26, 2020

**Subject:** 2020 YWCA USA'S STAND AGAINST RACISM CAMPAIGN PROCLAMATION

## RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor proclaim April 23-26, 2020 as YWCA USA's Stand Against Racism Weekend.

## BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Stand Against Racism is a signature campaign of YWCA USA to build community among those who work for racial justice and to raise awareness about the negative impact of institutional and structural racism in communities. This campaign is one part of its larger national strategy to fulfill its mission of eliminating racism. This campaign provides an opportunity for our community to reflect on institutional and structural racism and be intentional with our own reflection and commitment.

As efforts gear up for the 2020 Census, YWCA USA has selected "Civic Engagement" as the theme for this year's efforts. Voting rights, census participation, and civic engagement are, and have always been, core components of racial justice. It is more important than ever to support full access and engagement for marginalized communities, especially women and girls of color, in the political process. More information is available at [www.standagainstracism.org](http://www.standagainstracism.org)

The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stand Against Racism event in Seattle, hosted by the People of Color Executive Council (POCEC) of YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish has rescheduled its event to September 30, 2020. More information is available here <https://www.ycaworks.org/events/2020-09-30/10th-annual-stand-against-racism>

Below is a pledge that the YWCA USA encourages all of us to take.

### *STAND AGAINST RACISM PLEDGE\**

*Mindful of the continuing affliction of institutional and structural racism as well as the daily realities of all forms of bias, prejudice, and bigotry in my own life, my family, my circle of friends, my co-workers, and the society in which I live, with conviction and hope:*

*I take this pledge, fully aware that the struggle to eliminate racism will not end with a mere pledge but calls for an ongoing transformation within myself and the institutions and structures of our society.*

*I pledge to look deeply and continuously in my heart and in my mind to identify all signs and vestiges of racism; to rebuke the use of racist language and behavior towards others; to root out such racism in my daily life and in my encounters with persons I know and with strangers I do not know; and to expand my consciousness to be more aware and sensitive to my use of overt and subtle expressions of racism and racial stereotypes;*

*I pledge to educate myself on racial justice issues and share what I learn in my own communities even if it means challenging my family, my partner, my children, my friends, my co-workers, and those I encounter on a daily basis;*

*I pledge, within my means, to actively work to support public policy solutions that prominently, openly, and enthusiastically promote racial equity in all aspects of human affairs; and to actively support and devote my time to YWCA, as well as other organizations working to eradicate racism from our society.*

*YWCA USA is on a mission to eliminate racism and empower women. I join YWCA in taking a stand against racism today and every day.*

### Racism and COVID-19

Our community's experience the COVID-19 pandemic also reinforces the need to stand against racism and embody our community's values of being safe, inclusive, and welcoming. This outbreak of COVID-19 carries with it the threat of xenophobia, racism, and bigotry. No race, nationality, or ethnicity is more likely to have COVID-19. Racism has no place in Kirkland and halting the spread of bigotry is also critical to keep our community safe.

\*This pledge has been adapted by YWCA USA from the Pledge to Eliminate Racism in My Life, YWCA Bergen County which is an adaptation of the Pledge to Heal Racism in My Life, Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace, April 10, 2006.



## A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

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### **Proclaiming April 23-26 as “YWCA Stand Against Racism Weekend” in Kirkland, Washington**

**WHEREAS**, all residents regardless of race, creed or ethnicity deserve to be treated with dignity, respect, compassion and justice; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 21, 2017 the City of Kirkland adopted Resolution R-5240, declaring Kirkland as a Safe, Inclusive and Welcoming City for All People; and

**WHEREAS**, Kirkland residents value initiatives to end race-based disparities and make the world a more equitable, inclusive and dignified place for all, and as the current COVID-19 pandemic carries the threat of xenophobia, racism, and bigotry, standing against racism is critical because no race, nationality or ethnicity is more likely to have COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the elimination of racism can be achieved only with the participation of all residents in dialogue, reflection and action; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Kirkland supports the YWCA’s mission to eliminate racial inequalities in employment, education, healthcare, housing, human services and other areas that affect quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, April 23-26, 2020 marks the occasion of the annual “Stand Against Racism Weekend,” a signature campaign of YWCA designed to build community among those who work for racial justice and to raise awareness about the negative impacts of institutional and structural racism;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim April 23-26, 2020 as “YWCA Stand Against Racism Weekend” in our City and encourage residents, local businesses, educators, and community and faith-based organizations to celebrate diversity and advocate for the elimination of racism.

Signed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020

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Penny Sweet, Mayor