

CITY OF SPOKANE



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Summer is the hungriest time of year for many children when families struggle to make up for lost school meals and food insecurity tends to increase. One in six kids in Washington state are food insecure, meaning their families struggle to provide regular access to adequate food, and The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated food insecurity, particularly among communities of color and households with children, the effects of which are still being felt by families. Low-income families spend an additional \$300 per month in the summer months to provide food for themselves and their children; and

WHEREAS, The National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option and the Summer Food Service Program, which are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction in Washington, play a vital role in alleviating food insecurity and helping low-income children get the nutrition they need during the summer months; and Summer meal programs are most effective when paired with educational and enrichment activities, which provide students a fun, safe place to be with friends and stay active, help curb the learning loss experienced during the summer months, especially among low-income children, and prepare students to return to school ready to learn and thrive; and

WHEREAS, 2/3 of students in Washington state are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals, yet most of these students do not access summer meals sites in their community. By increasing awareness about the Summer Meal programs through outreach in the community and investing in summer programming to attract more kids to meal sites, our community can increase access to summer meals programs and ensure that no child goes hungry this summer:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nadine Woodward, Mayor of the City of Spokane, on behalf of the citizens of Spokane, do hereby proclaim July 10-14, 2023 as

FREE SUMMER MEALS PROGRAM WEEK

in Spokane and encourage our community to increase access and awareness for summer meal programs.

I, Nadine Woodward, Mayor of Spokane,
do hereunto set my hand and
cause the seal of the City of Spokane
to be affixed this
5th day of July 2023.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Nadine Woodward".

Nadine Woodward
Mayor

