

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KELSO, COWLITZ COUNTY,
WASHINGTON DECLARING THE CITY OF KELSO TO BE AN INCLUSIVE
COMMUNITY WHERE BUSINESSES ARE EMPOWERED WITH CHOICE
AND CITIZENS ARE TREATED EQUALLY**

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, the State of Washington declared a State of Emergency in all Washington Counties due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2021, all counties in Washington will be back in phase 3 of “Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery Plan,” and a proposed full reopening of Washington on or before June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The City of Kelso as a municipality has no legal ability to waive mandates enforced by Department of Labor and Industries, and therefore cannot protect any local business from state-directed penalties; and

WHEREAS, the Kelso City Council recognizes that as a community, citizens know what is best for their health and safety and the health and safety of their families; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kelso stands to be an inclusive community, where all people regardless of their vaccine status should be treated equally, with kindness, compassion, and understanding; and

WHEREAS, the Kelso City Council does not support government mandated restrictions promoting COVID-19 vaccine segregation in our community; and

WHEREAS, all citizens have the right to refuse a vaccination based on religious, medical, or personal reasons and every medical intervention requires informed consent and the right of refusal; and

WHEREAS, private health information regarding proof of vaccination status should not be required by any government mandate in order to access businesses, houses of worship, or cultural events; and

WHEREAS, wearing a mask is a personal health decision and should not be mandated by the government to the public or used as a tool to discriminate against fellow citizens;

**NOW, THEREFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KELSO,
WASHINGTON HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

The City of Kelso is an inclusive community where businesses and citizens are treated with equal access, regardless of vaccination status or mask usage. Where choice and freedom are paramount for the cumulative success of our community; and

The City of Kelso will communicate with the Governor's Office in demanding the full opening of our city, county, and state no later than June 30, 2021. Granting our citizens freedom from further restrictions, mask mandates, and proof of vaccination requirements and restrictions that promote COVID-19 vaccine segregation; and

The Kelso City Council opposes any government mandated requirements or restrictions on citizens to show proof of vaccination status in order to access local businesses, houses of worship, or cultural events. We uphold the values of personal responsibility and individual liberties to empower citizens to make their own healthcare choices; and

The City of Kelso will sponsor outdoor festivals and activities for all our citizens, in spirit of reconnecting with our neighbors and restoring community; and

The City of Kelso will not promote COVID-19 vaccine segregation restrictions or mask requirements for the public at our events. All people will be treated equally and empowered with personal choice, all while implementing safety measures to keep our citizens healthy; and

The City of Kelso supports freedom of choice for all our citizens and those in our business community and supports their judgement to do what is prudent to ensure their free expression as listed in the Declaration of Independence for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

ADOPTED by the City Council and **SIGNED** by the Mayor this ____ day of _____, 2021.

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATION:

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY