



**City of Yakima**

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**Subject: Cascade and Senator Apartments Vacations**

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**Release Date: Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

## **Plans Developing for Senator and Cascade Residents Relocation**

As the deadline for residents of both the Senator Apartments and the Cascade Apartments to vacate the buildings approaches, the City of Yakima has partnered with the Yakima County Human Services Department to develop a plan to help the residents find other housing.

In mid-December of last year, the City's Codes Division notified the owner of the two Downtown Yakima buildings that several health and life safety issues, including non-functioning fire alarm systems, holes in walls, and electrical problems, had to be addressed or the apartments in the Senator and the Cascade would have to be vacated. Since then, only minimal progress has been made to take care of the numerous code violations.

Because of that lack of progress, a deadline of Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at noon has been set for residents to vacate the buildings.

To help the mostly low-income residents of the Senator Apartments and Cascade Apartments find other housing, the City turned to the County's Human Services Department, which has a wealth of experience working with rental property owners and other housing providers.

"We have built a strong network of agencies, including the Northwest Justice Project and the Homeless Network of Yakima County, as well as numerous housing providers that we can use to help ease the transition for residents of the Senator and the Cascade apartments," said Yakima County Human Services Department Senior Manager Tim Sullivan. "Residents will have every opportunity to find safe, affordable places to live."

Over the next few days, current residents of the Senator and Cascade buildings will be invited to meet with representatives from various agencies to discuss their housing needs. A schedule and location for those meetings will likely be released on Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. Door hangers will be distributed throughout the Senator and Cascade apartments alerting residents about the opportunity for them to take advantage of the assistance being provided by the County's Human Services Department and its network of agencies and housing providers.

Because code violations were only found in the upper floor apartments, businesses that currently occupy ground floor spaces in the Cascade building are not being required to leave. No businesses are located on the ground floor of the Senator building.

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