



City of Yakima

# NEWS RELEASE

**Subject: Cascade and Senator Apartments Vacations**

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## **Assessment Center Open To Cascade and Senator Residents Wednesday**

With a deadline to vacate apartments in the Cascade and Senator buildings set for this Friday, the Yakima County Human Services Department will coordinate with the Northwest Justice Project and other agencies that provide housing assistance to staff an “Assessment Center” on **Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>** to help current residents of the buildings find other housing options.

The Assessment Center will be located in the **County’s Conference Center** (the old Pizza Hut building) at **1<sup>st</sup> Street and Lincoln Avenue** and will be open to current Senator and Cascade residents from **12:00 pm to 5:00 pm**.

The City of Yakima has issued an order for the apartments in the two Downtown Yakima buildings to be vacated because numerous fire and life safety code violations first identified in mid-December of last year have not been addressed by the owner of the Cascade and Senator buildings. The code violations cited by the City include non-functioning fire alarm systems, holes in walls and ceilings, and substandard electrical wiring.

Owners of rental properties in the Yakima area who are interested in providing housing to current residents of the Cascade and Senator buildings are encouraged to list their available units on the free, non-profit housing listing **HousingSearchNW.org** website or by calling Housing Search Northwest toll free at **1-877-428-8844** for live help with adding and updating listings.

Current residents of the Cascade and Senator buildings can also receive additional information and assistance from **CLEAR**, a legal advice and referral service operated by the Northwest Justice Project, by calling **1-888-201-1014** or by visiting the local Northwest Justice Project office in Suite 510 in the Larson Building. Residents of the buildings can also learn more by visiting the **washingtonhelp.org** website or by calling **Yakima Neighborhood Health Services** at **249-6232**.

Under state law (RCW 59.18.085), the owner of the Cascade and Senator buildings could be required to provide monetary assistance to current residents of the apartments to help them find other housing.

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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