



City of Yakima

# **News Release**

**Subject: Swearing In of Yakima City Council Members**  
**Contact: Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler – 901-1142**  
**Release Date: Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

## **Yakima City Council Members Sworn In December 9<sup>th</sup>**

Four newly-elected Yakima City Council members and three returning incumbents will be officially sworn in during a special Council meeting on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. The special meeting will take place in the City Council Chambers at Yakima City Hall.

Dulce Gutiérrez, Avina Gutiérrez, Carmen Méndez, and Holly Cousens, the four newly-elected Council members, along with returning incumbents Bill Lover, Kathy Coffey, and Maureen Adkison will be sworn in during the December 9<sup>th</sup> special meeting but won't officially begin their terms until January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Council members are typically sworn in at the first business meeting of the new year following a general election. The first Yakima City Council business meeting of 2016 is scheduled to take place on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

The earlier-than-usual swearing in became necessary because of a ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Rice in February of this year requiring all seven Council seats be up for election during the 2015 election cycle. As a result, the terms of all current Council members expire at the end of the year.

Because the terms of all seven current Council members expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>, if a circumstance were to arise that required Council action to be taken between January 1<sup>st</sup> and the first Council business meeting of the year (January 5<sup>th</sup>), technically no sitting Council would be in place and, therefore, no action could be taken. That potential conflict will be alleviated by swearing in the four newly-elected Council members and the three returning incumbents on December 9<sup>th</sup> so that a full seven-member Council will be seated as of January 1<sup>st</sup>.