



YAKIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ROBERT UDELL, Sheriff

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To: **Yakima County Board of County Commissioners**
LaDon Linde, Chair
Amanda McKinney
Kyle Curtis

From: Sheriff Robert Udell

Date: April 28, 2026

Re: Camp Hope Letter of Support

Commissioners:

Camp Hope has been a very valuable resource to the Sheriff's Office, and other law enforcement around the County, for years. This letter is intended to document the value and level of collaboration *Camp Hope* has provided to our communities.

As a 24-hour facility dedicated to providing a place to stay for the homeless, *Camp Hope* is a critical part of our County's care system. Deputies routinely encounter people who either are unhoused or have no where to go due to a major disruption in their lives. *Camp Hope* is usually the destination that deputies can count on to provide services. *Camp Hope* staff is unique in that they will travel to where the deputy and person(s) in need are and transport them back to *Camp Hope*. They will even take property and animals! Such service allows deputies to quickly return to service and be available for other calls. The homeless encampments along the Yakima River have become a persistent problem, but *Camp Hope* is uniquely positioned to service that population.

Camp Hope also will house registered sex offenders, a small sub-set of homeless that require housing like anyone else. *Camp Hope* staff provides oversight, plus will help verify RSOs staying at their facility. We do not have any safety concerns with registered sex offenders staying at *Camp Hope*: The staff does a great job monitoring their guests and ensuring everyone's safety.

Camp Hope has been a great resource for Yakima County, and it is my hope they continue to provide such a needed service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Udell".

Robert Udell, Sheriff

The mission of the Yakima County Sheriff's Office is to enhance public safety, with integrity and professionalism