



# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, in 1984, the National Science Foundation (NSF) approved a development plan for the Large Interferometric Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO), which led to a 1990 construction proposal and the section of Hanford, Washington as one of two sites in 1992; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 14, 2015, LIGO's two sites together achieved the world's first detection of gravitational waves, whose existence had been predicted 99 years earlier by Albert Einstein, for which LIGO co-founders Rainer Weiss, Kip Thorne and Barry Barish were awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics "for decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves"; and


**WHEREAS**, IEEE, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, is a professional association with over 423,000 members worldwide, and which has dedicated 212 IEEE Milestones honoring significant technical and scientific achievements throughout the world; and

**WHEREAS**, IEEE's 213<sup>th</sup> Milestone titled "Gravitational-Wave Antenna, 1972-1989" bearing a citation reading, in part, "In 2015, LIGO antennas, located here and in Louisiana, first detected gravitational waves produced 1.3 billion years ago from two merging black holes" will be dedicated at the LIGO site on February 3, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Richland, Washington recognizes the extraordinary achievements of the LIGO gravitational-wave antennas.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ryan Lukson, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Richland, Washington, do hereby proclaim February 2021 as LIGO/VIRGO Gravitational-Wave Antenna Month.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed hereto the official seal of the City of Richland, Washington, on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2021.



Ryan Lukson, Mayor