

- **WHEREAS,** the City of Merced has an interest in promoting the social and economic wellbeing of its citizens, employees and employers; and
- **WHEREAS,** that well-being depends upon the existence of healthy and productive employees working in safe and abuse-free environments; and
- **WHEREAS,** research has documented the stress-related health consequences for individuals caused by exposure to abusive work environments; and
- **WHEREAS,** abusive work environments are costly for employers, with consequences including reduced productivity, absenteeism, turnover, and injuries; and
- **WHEREAS,** protection from abusive work environments should apply to every worker, and not be limited to legally protected class status based only on race, color, gender, national origin, age, or disability.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STANLEY P. THURSTON, Mayor of the City of Merced, do hereby proclaim October 18 -25, 2015, as FREEDOM FROM WORKPLACE BULLIES WEEK in the City of Merced and commend the California Healthy Workplace Advocates and the Workplace Bullying Institute, which raise awareness of the impacts of, and solutions for, workplace bullying in the U.S.; and encourage all citizens to recognize this special observance.

Signed this 5th day of October, 2015.

Stanley P. Thurston, Mayor of Merced