



Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** 1 in 3 women and 1 in 7 men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime and,
- WHEREAS,** women are not the only targets; men, young children and the elderly also are counted among the victims, and, sadly, emotional scars are often permanent; and
- WHEREAS,** 1 in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence, and,
- WHEREAS,** domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security and humanity, the impact of domestic violence is wide ranging, dramatically affecting the lives of individuals, families, our community, and our nation, and,
- WHEREAS,** Merced County, is not isolated from the reality of domestic violence, our young people are reporting dating abuse at rates similar to youth nationwide, dating abuse and domestic violence occurs in a pattern that can be passed down through generations, and,
- WHEREAS,** Intimate Partner Violence is estimated to cost the U.S. economy between \$5.8 billion and \$12.6 billion annually, up to 0.125% of the national gross domestic product, and,
- WHEREAS,** in the United States an average of 20 people per minute experience intimate partner physical violence every minute, this equates to 10 billion abuse victims annually, and,
- WHEREAS,** Valley Crisis Center works to prevent domestic violence through program aimed at creating protective environments and promoting healthy peer-to-peer relationships, and, has chosen to place the focus on prevention programs during the National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE MURPHY, Mayor of the City of Merced hereby recognize the month of October 2019 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" and urge all citizens to actively participate in the scheduled activities and programs, which work toward improving victim safety and hold perpetrators of domestic violence accountable for their actions against individuals and our society as a whole.

Signed this 7th day of October 2019.

Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced