



# *Proclamation*

- WHEREAS,** Treatment and long-term recovery from substance use disorders can offer a renewed outlook on life for those who are addicted and their family members; and
- WHEREAS,** In 2019, an estimated 21.6 million people aged 12 or older needed treatment for substance use disorders or dependence in the United States (2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health); and
- WHEREAS,** People who receive treatment for substance use disorders can lead more productive and fulfilling lives, personally and professionally; and
- WHEREAS,** Real stories of long-term recovery can inspire others to ask for help and improve their own lives, the lives of their families, and the community; and
- WHEREAS,** It is critical that Merced residents understand that substance use disorders are treatable, yet serious health care problems, and by treating them like other chronic diseases, we can improve the quality of life for the entire community; and
- WHEREAS,** To help achieve this goal, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Substance Use Disorder Services Division invite all residents of Merced to participate in National Recovery Month.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MATTHEW SERRATTO, Mayor** of the City of Merced, do hereby proclaim September 2021 as "National Recovery Month" to demonstrate our continued support and commitment to substance use prevention, treatment and recovery, and to encourage individuals to participate in activities and ceremonies supporting this year's theme. "Recovery is For Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community."

Signed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021.

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*Matthew Serratto, Mayor of Merced*