



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the month of April has been declared Sexual Assault Awareness Month by the White House, the United State Congress, and state governments throughout the nation, including California; and,

WHEREAS, sexual violence is a devastating, violent, and intolerable crime that affects, men, women, seniors, teens, and children of all races, ages, cultures, economic situations, and abilities; and,

WHEREAS, statistics show 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men will be assaulted at some point in their lives. Child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that 1 in 6 boys and 1 in 4 girls will experience a sexual assault before age 18; and,

WHEREAS, on campus, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men are sexually assaulted during their time in college; and,

WHEREAS, no one person, organization, agency, or community can eliminate sexual assault alone; and,

WHEREAS, we must work together to educate our community about sexual violence prevention, supporting survivors, and speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions; and,

WHEREAS, the fourth Wednesday of April is observed around the world as Denim Day; a single day of awareness created to remember a rape conviction that was overturned on appeal, simply because the victim wore tight jeans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STANLEY P. THURSTON, Mayor of the City of Merced, proclaim the month of April 2016 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in Merced, and proclaim April 27th as "Denim Day" in order to support sexual assault prevention awareness efforts throughout the city.

Signed this 4th day of April 2016.

Stanley P. Thurston, Mayor of Merced