



Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** the United States Government has declared April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" and has declared April 26, 2017 as "Denim Day" in Merced County; and
- WHEREAS,** both events are intended to draw attention to the fact that rape and sexual assault remains a serious issue in our society; and
- WHEREAS,** harmful attitudes about rape and sexual assault allow these crimes to persist and allow victims / survivors to be re-victimized; and
- WHEREAS,** "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" and "Denim Day" were also instituted to call attention to misconceptions and misinformation about rape and sexual assault, and the problem that many in society remain disturbingly uninformed with respect to issues of assault and forcible rape; and
- WHEREAS,** every two minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted, approximately 1-in-6 women are raped during their lifetime and youths under the age of 18 account for about 44% of all reported; and
- WHEREAS,** with proper education on the matter, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing incidents of this alarming and psychologically damaging crime; and
- WHEREAS,** the members of the Merced City Council strongly support the efforts of "Denim Day" to educate the community about the true impact of rape and sexual assault.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE MURPHY, Mayor of the City of Merced, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2017 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month," designate April 26, 2017 as "Denim Day," and urge all citizens of Merced to wear jeans on April 26, 2017 to help communicate the message that there is "no excuse and never an invitation to rape" and to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Signed this 17th day of April 2017,

Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced