



# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS,** advocates and organizations work on behalf of victims every day: Domestic violence shelters and services, law enforcement officials, health care providers, court systems and legal aid providers, and others are all an integral part of the effort to end domestic violence and must be recognized and applauded for their work; and

**WHEREAS,** domestic violence affects women, men, and children of all racial, ethnic, cultural, social, religious, and economic groups in the United States and here in California; and

**WHEREAS,** the marginalization of certain groups in society, including undocumented individuals, transgender individuals, and people living with disabilities, increases their vulnerability to intimate partner violence; and

**WHEREAS,** among families, domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness; and

**WHEREAS,** all victims deserve access to culturally-appropriate programs and services to increase their safety and improve their life situations; and

**WHEREAS,** children exposed to domestic violence can experience long-term consequences, including difficulty at school, substance abuse, and serious adult health problems; and

**WHEREAS,** there is a need to increase the public awareness and understanding of domestic violence and the needs of victims.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE MURPHY, Mayor** of the City of Merced, hereby recognize the month of October 2017 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 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2017.

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*Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced*