



Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** sexual assault is an intolerable violent crime with public health implications for every person in Merced as a victim/survivor or as a family member, significant other, neighbor or co-worker of a victim/survivor; and
- WHEREAS,** no one person, organization, agency or community can eliminate sexual assault on their own - we must work together to educate our entire population to prevent sexual assault; and
- WHEREAS,** Valley Crisis Center has led the way in Merced in addressing sexual assault by providing 24-hour hotline services to victim/survivors and their significant others, responding to emergency calls, offering support and comfort to those impacted by sexual assault during medical exams, criminal proceedings, and empowering those impacted by sexual assault to chart their own course for healing; and
- WHEREAS,** ending sexual assault in Merced must include active public and private efforts to End Sexual Violence in collaboration with Valley Crisis Center, including conversation about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with crucial counseling and other support services; and
- WHEREAS,** staff and volunteers of sexual assault programs in Merced work year round to encourage every person in Merced to End Sexual Violence and to support survivors by providing prevention education and survivor empowerment information; and
- WHEREAS,** Valley Crisis Center has set an important example of how forging collaborative relationships between service agencies and organizations serves to improve the quality of service for those most profoundly and directly impacted by sexual violence; and
- WHEREAS,** Valley Crisis Center requests public support and assistance as it continues its effort to bring real hope for freeing Merced from the tragedy of sexual violence to create a future where all women, men and children can live free from violence and exploitation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE MURPHY, Mayor of the City of Merced, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim April 2018 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in Merced, and proclaim April 25th as "Denim Day" in order to support sexual assault prevention awareness efforts throughout the city.

Signed this 2nd day of April, 2018.

Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced