



# *Proclamation*

- WHEREAS,** three in four American knows someone who's experienced domestic violence; 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,** we must work together to educate our community about domestic violence prevention, supporting survivors, and speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE MURPHY, Mayor** of the City of Merced hereby recognize the month of October 2018 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" and recognize the efforts of Valley Crisis Center's Peace for Families March on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. We urge all citizen 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 1st day of October 2018.

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*Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced*