



Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** the City council of the City of Merced have recognized healthy communities as a priority; and,
- WHEREAS,** disabilities can affect all people, regardless of race, age, gender, or social status and the essence of life is not embodied by physical or mental perfection, but it is an integral part of the human spirit; and,
- WHEREAS,** increasing public awareness about diverse abilities is vital to fighting the stigma and discrimination that often serve as a barrier to employment, socialization, and individual well-being; and.
- WHEREAS,** there are an estimated 4,206,918 people with disabilities in the State of California, and over 40,971 people with disabilities in Merced County; and,
- WHEREAS,** within the next year, at least one out of eight Californians will experience a disability personally or through a family member; and,
- WHEREAS,** people with different abilities are independent, productive, and part of the community; and,
- WHEREAS,** education, understanding, access engagement, and relationships are important components of a connected, livable, and healthy community; and,
- WHEREAS,** communities thrive when residents appreciate the unique gifts inside people of all abilities; and,
- WHEREAS,** by developing relationships with our neighbors, we make our community a place where everyone participates and is a valued member; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE MURPHY, Mayor of the City Council of the City of Merced that June 2019 is Disability Awareness Month within the City of Merced and we urge all our citizens to become aware of the needs and capabilities of persons with disabilities.

Signed this 17th day of June 2019.

Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced