



# *Proclamation*

- WHEREAS,** October is annually recognized as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and,
- WHEREAS,** Valley Crisis Center received 974 domestic violence calls on their crisis hotline, held 600 peer counseling sessions, provided legal assistance to 166 survivors, and sheltered 79 adults and children during the period of July 2019 to June 2020; and
- WHEREAS,** the coronavirus pandemic has shown that so many people are still not safe in their own homes because of domestic violence; and,
- WHEREAS,** creating a safe community without domestic violence requires us to end all other forms of violence, including racism, sexism, ableism, and homophobia; and,
- WHEREAS,** survivors of domestic violence need access to affordable housing, jobs that pay living wages, and adequate healthcare in order to rebuild their lives; and,
- WHEREAS,** we must invest in violence prevention programs that address trauma and teach healthy relationship skills in order to stop intergenerational cycles of domestic violence; and,
- WHEREAS,** survivors deserve to be heard, believed, and respected as they seek accountability, justice, and healing; and,
- WHEREAS,** Valley Crisis Center works to prevent domestic violence through program aimed at creating protective environments and promoting healthy peer-to-peer relationships, and, has chosen to place the focus on prevention programs during the National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE MURPHY, Mayor** of the City of Merced hereby recognize the month of October 2020 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 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020.

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*Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced*