

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS,** the City of Missoula joins with Canada to spur awareness in Montana, the Great Plains region, and the United States for murdered and missing **Indigenous People**; and

**WHEREAS,** there is not a comprehensive estimate of **Indigenous People** who are missing and murdered in the United States, but many factors contribute to this crisis, such as fear, stigma, legal barriers, racism, sexism, and the devastating levels of violence in the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS,** nearly half of all Native American women in the United States have been raped, beaten, or stalked by an intimate partner; one in three will be raped in her lifetime; a Native woman is more likely to die by homicide than by illness; intentional homicide has been the third leading cause of death for Native females aged 10–24, and on some reservations, women are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than the national average; and

**WHEREAS,** for more than 20 years there have been awareness-raising efforts in Canada on Valentine’s Day, and Murdered and Missing **Indigenous People** Awareness Day seeks to build support by increasing awareness in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** **Indigenous People** authored this proclamation, starting with Ruth Plenty Sweetgrass-She Kills, beginning in 2016, to bring greater awareness to MMIP in the Missoula valley and beyond: and

**NOW THEREFORE,** I, Jordan Hess, Mayor of Missoula, Montana do hereby proclaim Tuesday, February 14, 2023 as:

## MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AWARENESS DAY

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, to be affixed at Missoula, Montana, this 14th day of February, in the year two thousand twenty-three.



Jordan Hess  
Mayor