

# PROCLAMATION

## MISSOULA COUNTY AND THE CITY OF MISSOULA

**WHEREAS**, Missoula County and The City of Missoula join an international effort to heighten awareness in Montana, the Great Plains region and the United States for murdered and missing Indigenous women; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Native Americans are two and a half times more likely to experience sexual assault crimes compared to all other races, and one in three Indigenous women reports having been raped during her lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, 39% are victims of domestic violence, and most violence against Indigenous women is perpetrated by non-Native men (except in rural Alaska villages); and

**WHEREAS**, Native Americans are four times more likely to go missing in Montana than other demographics, and Montana is among the top five states for missing and murdered Indigenous women; and

**WHEREAS**, Indigenous women are murdered at 10 times the rate of other ethnicities; and murder is the third leading cause of death for Indigenous women; and

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

**NOW THEREFORE**, we, the Missoula Board of County Commissioners and the Mayor of The City of Missoula, do hereby continue to proclaim May 5, 2024, as:

## MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN AWARENESS DAY

CITY OF MISSOULA



Andrea Davis, Mayor

COUNTY OF MISSOULA



Dave Strohmaier, Chair

  
Josh Slotnick, Commissioner  
Juanita Vero, Commissioner