

PROCLAMATION

MISSOULA COUNTY AND THE CITY OF MISSOULA, MONTANA

WHEREAS, without regard to age, race, gender, religion or economic status, the issue of domestic violence affects thousands of Missoula County residents, and as victims endure abuse from a spouse or partner, it also impacts their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, physical violence, sexual violence and/or stalking in intimate relationships affect one in three women and one in four men at some point in their lives. In Montana, intimate partner physical violence (also known as IPV), sexual violence and/or stalking affect 37% of women and 30% of men. The probability of intimate relationship femicide is at least five times higher when abusers have access to firearms; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans in Montana and across the United States experience intimate partner violence at disproportionately high rates: 84% of Native American and Alaska Native women will experience domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking; 56% of Native American and Alaska Native men will experience some form of IPV; Native women are 2.5 times more likely than other groups of women to be assaulted in the United States; and homicide is the third leading cause of death for Native women. The origins of domestic violence and abuse of Native people can be traced to colonization, including the introduction of alcohol, forced removal of children, boarding schools, and loss of land, culture, language and traditional ways of life; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence has widespread, immeasurable impacts on society, including causing lasting trauma, loss, grief, physical injuries that may be disabling, and lifelong psychological injuries. Further, these impacts take an economic toll on victims. When accounting for medical costs, lost productivity, legal fees and property loss, domestic violence victims incur lifetime costs of nearly \$82,000, and the United States incurs \$3.6 trillion in costs. Yet, dollars cannot measure the lifelong impacts on victims and their children who experience trauma from domestic violence in their homes; and

WHEREAS, according to research, domestic violence can be decreased by building communities where people are connected, caring and supportive of one another; and

WHEREAS, every day in Missoula County, people and organizations support those who have been affected by domestic abuse by offering services and resources, including therapy, legal counsel, education, housing, advocacy and medical care.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED we, Missoula County and the City of Missoula, do hereby proclaim the month of October as

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

DATED THIS 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024

CITY OF MISSOULA



Andreas Davis, Mayor

COUNTY OF MISSOULA



David Strohmaier, Chair



Josh Slotnick, Commissioner



Juanita Vero, Commissioner

