

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 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 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; they are 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual assault; one in three will be raped in her lifetime; and on some reservations, women are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, for more than 30 years there have been awareness-raising efforts in Canada on Valentine's Day, and the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Awareness Day seeks to build support by increasing awareness in the United States; and

WHEREAS, there has been an increase in human trafficking in Montana due to the increased oil activity in the Bakken region, as well as in all areas of the state. On June 15, 2018, Jermaine Charlo went missing in Missoula. Investigators believe she may have been kidnapped. Jermaine is still missing.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John Engen, Mayor of Missoula, Montana do hereby proclaim Sunday, February 14, 2021 as:

MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN 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-one.



John Engen
Mayor