

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 **Indigenous women** in the United States have been raped, beaten, or stalked by an intimate partner; one in three will be raped in her lifetime; an **Indigenous woman** is more likely to die by homicide than by illness; intentional homicide has been the third leading cause of death for **Indigenous females** aged 10–24, and on some reservations, **Indigenous 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 the Murdered and Missing **Indigenous Women** Awareness Day seeks to build support by increasing awareness in the United States; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, I, John Engen, Mayor of Missoula, Montana do hereby proclaim Sunday, February 14, 2022 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-two.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Engen".

John Engen
Mayor