

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, when people are wrongfully convicted of a crime they did not commit, innocent lives are ruined, actual perpetrators hurt others, and the American justice system suffers; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,880 innocent individuals have been exonerated in the United States and these innocent individuals serve an average of 14 years in prison before exoneration and release; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of innocent individuals in prison in Montana, including Richard Raugust, who was recently exonerated after spending 18 years in prison for a crime he did not commit; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Innocence Project, a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to exonerating the innocent in Montana and preventing wrongful convictions in our state, assists innocent individuals by providing investigative and legal help to those with credible claims of innocence; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Innocence Project works to improve the criminal justice system and prevent wrongful convictions by promoting public policy reforms and educating Montanans across the state through collaboration with pro bono attorneys, volunteers, and university students in the legal, journalism, and criminology programs.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John Engen, Mayor of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, hereby recognize the week of October 1-8, 2016 as:

MONTANA INNOCENCE PROJECT WEEK

in Missoula, and urge citizens to support the quest for justice for all Montanans.

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 3rd day of October, in the year two thousand sixteen.



John Engen
Mayor