

# 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 epidemic, 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; a Native woman is more likely to die by homicide than by illnesses including diabetes, heart disease and cancer, intentional homicide has been the third leading cause of death for Native females aged 10–24, and on some reservations, Native women and girls are murdered at more than 10 times 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,** 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.

**NOW THEREFORE,** I, John Engen, Mayor of Missoula, Montana do hereby proclaim Wednesday, February 14, 2018 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 eighteen.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John Engen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Engen, Mayor