

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS,** The plight of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People is a crisis of our nation and there is no comprehensive estimate of the number of Indigenous women who are missing and murdered; and

**WHEREAS,** 84% of Indigenous women have experienced some form of violence in their lifetimes, they experience murder at a rate 10 times higher than the national average, murder is the third leading cause of death for Indigenous women and girls, they are two and a half times more likely to experience sexual assault than non-Indigenous women, and one in three Indigenous women reports having been raped in her lifetime; and

**WHEREAS,** Indigenous people are four times more likely to go missing in Montana than non-indigenous people and Montana is among the top five states for cases involving Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman and People; and

**WHEREAS,** the red handprint across the mouth has become a national symbol of the MMIW movement, honoring those silenced by violence; and the magnitude of violence against Indigenous women today is a direct result of ongoing systemic injustices; and

**WHEREAS,** following the 2013 murder of Hanna Harris on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, May 5<sup>th</sup> was nationally recognized to honor missing and murdered Indigenous relatives and to call for a commitment to lasting change by supporting leadership of Native communities in advocacy and reform, and working toward a future where indigenous people are safe, and justice is served.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Andrea Davis, Mayor of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, hereby recognize the 5th day of May, 2025 as:

## **MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND PEOPLE 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 5th day of May, in the year two thousand twenty-five.



Andrea Davis, Mayor