



Proclamation
Mayor Mitch Reynolds
City of La Crosse

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Justice reports that 84% of American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime and more than half experienced sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, homicide is the third leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native women between 10 and 24 years of age and the fifth leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska women 25 and 34 years of age; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Crime Information Center reported nearly 6,000 cases of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls, but the U.S. Department of Justice was tracking only about 100 cases; and

WHEREAS, still little data exist on the number of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls in the United States, but there have been instances of violence towards Indigenous women and girls from the eleven Wisconsin Native American Tribes; and

WHEREAS, systemic risk factors such as poverty, homelessness, violence, sex trafficking, and prostitution are root causes of violence to Indigenous women, children, and two spirit people; and

WHEREAS, complex or problematic relationships among the jurisdictions and systems and a lack of understanding of tribal sovereignty, laws, and culture causes ineffective investigations, lack of prosecution, and absence of closure for families; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse aligns with the State of Wisconsin and the United States of America by joining the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force in commemorating the lives of all missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, regardless of whether their cases have been documented in public records or the media, and stand in solidarity with the families of the victims of these senseless tragedies; and

WHEREAS, it is of utmost importance for the City of La Crosse to work collaboratively with local Tribal Nations and partners to create solutions to violence that are victim-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally appropriate; and

WHEREAS, today and each May 5th going forward, we mourn and call attention to all missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls throughout the state and country, as well as all those who have experienced violence and assault, and resolve to act to prevent further victimization.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MITCH REYNOLDS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LA CROSSE, do hereby proclaim May 5th as

“DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS”

in the City of La Crosse.

Dated on this 5th day of May, Two Thousand Twenty-Four.





MAYOR MITCH REYNOLDS