

# CITY OF FRESNO

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*Office of Councilmember Esmeralda Soria*

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## *“National Safe Place Week”*

**WHEREAS**, March 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 is National Safe Place Week and Sanctuary and Youth Services, which is administered by Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, will join National Safe Place Network in this national celebration to recognize local businesses, community organizations, youth service agencies, and volunteers that are part of the Safe Place program and work for the safety and well-being of Fresno County’s youth; and

**WHEREAS**, A “Safe Place” is a safe haven for youth in crisis. Sanctuary’s Safe Place project and its network of over 300 partner sites throughout Fresno County is committed to protecting our nation’s most valuable asset, our youth; and

**WHEREAS**, Fresno EOC’s Sanctuary Youth Shelter is an emergency shelter for runaway, homeless, or at-risk youth ages 12-18. The Sanctuary Youth Shelter is the only self-referral emergency shelter within a 15,000 square mile radius and is open 24 hours-a-day, 7 days a week, providing emergency assistance to approximately 300 youth annually; and

**WHEREAS**, Fresno Area Express (FAX) transit system has partnered with Sanctuary’s Safe Place sites. FAX provides immediate assistance to young people in crisis by transporting them to Fresno EOC. In addition, Fresno PARCS sites serve as access points for youth in need and provides connection to Sanctuary’s Youth Shelter; and

**WHEREAS**, Today more than 370,215 youth have been helped at one of the 20,000 Safe Place locations nationwide or received counseling by phone through Safe Place; Since 1997, Sanctuary has administered the Safe Place Program and has provided education and assisted nearly 250,000 youth and adults; and

**WHEREAS**, National Safe Place Network operates in 38 states and in more than 1,430 communities throughout the United States, including Fresno, CA. Increased awareness will encourage more communities to establish Safe Place locations where youth can readily access the help they need.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Fresno Mayor and City Council does hereby proclaim the week of March 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 to be:

## *“National Safe Place Week”*

*in the City of Fresno*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF*, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the seal of the City of Fresno, California, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2019.

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LEE BRAND, Honorable Mayor

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ESMERALDA SORIA, Councilmember, District 1

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STEVE BRANDAU, Council President, District 2

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MIGUEL ARIAS, Council Vice-President, District 3

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PAUL CAPRIOGLIO, Councilmember, District 4

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LUIS CHAVEZ, Councilmember, District 5

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GARRY BREDEFELD, Councilmember, District 6

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NELSON ESPARZA, Councilmember, District 7