

WHEREAS, mental health is a critically important concern affecting individuals, children, families, and communities throughout Central California, and must remain a central priority in protecting the health, safety, and overall well-being of residents, as mental wellness is critical to a thriving and resilient community; and

WHEREAS, conditions affecting emotional and psychological well-being impact individuals across all ages, backgrounds, and income levels, influencing educational outcomes, workforce productivity, and quality of life, making access to timely, compassionate, and effective care essential; and

WHEREAS, approximately one in five residents in Fresno County will experience a mental health condition in a given year, and data indicates that many individuals experiencing emotional, mental health, or substance use challenges continue to face barriers to care, with only a portion reporting access to services, highlighting the urgent need to expand outreach and equitable access to treatment; and

WHEREAS, mental health concerns are too often misunderstood, underdiagnosed, or left untreated due to stigma, lack of awareness, and gaps in early intervention, particularly among vulnerable populations including children, families, and those experiencing perinatal mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as NAMI Fresno County play a critical role in raising awareness, reducing stigma, and providing education and support services that strengthen individuals and families while promoting mental wellness throughout the City of Fresno.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, Mayor Jerry P. Dyer, Councilmember

Annalisa Perea, and the Fresno City Councilmembers encourage all residents, community organizations, healthcare providers, educational institutions, and local agencies to work together to increase awareness and support mental health and well-being of all members of our community and do hereby declare the month of

May 2026 to be:

“Mental Health Awareness Month”

in the City of Fresno.