

# CITY OF FRESNO

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## *Office of Councilmember Esmeralda Soria*

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*Is hereby presented in honor of:*

***Dajon Reed***

***WHEREAS,*** Mental health is a part of overall health that often goes untreated due to the stigma surrounding it. It is important to maintain mental health and learn the symptoms of mental illness to get help when it is needed; and

***WHEREAS,*** Approximately one-half of chronic mental illness begins by the age of fourteen, and three-quarters by the age of twenty-four. 90% of people who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness with suicide being the second leading cause of death among young adults; and

***WHEREAS,*** Long delays – sometimes decades – often occur between the time symptoms first appear and individuals getting help. Early identification and treatment can make a difference in successful management of mental illness and recovery; and

***WHEREAS,*** Every person and community can make a difference in helping end the stigma that surrounds mental illness and discourages people from getting help; and

***WHEREAS,*** The City of Fresno honors the life and memory of Dajon Reed who tragically passed at the age of twenty-four after his battle with mental illness; and

***WHEREAS,*** Dajon’s memory lives on through his mother, Dr. Michelle Gonzales Reed, who is fighting for mental health reform. Through her advocacy she is bringing awareness to the struggles of mental illness, and for better education about mental health.

***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,*** That the City of Fresno Mayor and City Council, in honor of Dajon Reed’s life and memory, hereby proclaim October 2<sup>nd</sup> through October 8<sup>th</sup> to be:

***“Mental Illness Awareness 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 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022.

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***ESMERALDA SORIA,*** Councilmember, District 1

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***JERRY DYER,*** Honorable Mayor

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***MIKE KARBASSI,*** Councilmember, District 2

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***LUIS CHAVEZ,*** Councilmember, District 5

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***MIGUEL ARIAS,*** Councilmember, District 3

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***GARRY BREDEFELD,*** Councilmember, District 6

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***TYLER MAXWELL,*** Council Vice President, District 4

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***NELSON ESPARZA,*** Council President, District 7