

# CITY OF FRESNO

*Office of Council President Esmeralda Soria*

## *“National Runaway Prevention Month”*

**WHEREAS,** November is National Runaway Prevention Month, and in partnership with National Runaway Safeline and National Network for Youth, Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Youth Services is committed to protecting our nation’s most valuable asset, our youth, and ending youth homelessness by 2020; and

**WHEREAS,** There were 12,000 crisis connections made from California to the National Runaway Safeline in 2017. For Fresno, there were 239 crisis connections made by youth who were provided with help and safety. Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Youth Services provides a “continuum of care” to assist runaway, displaced, and homelessness youth with successful transition from adolescence to adulthood by operating an emergency and transitional shelter for youth in crisis, providing a Drop-In Center for homeless and runaway youth, and maintaining over 300 Safe Place sites including more than 100 Fresno Unified School District school campuses to facilitate youth access to shelter and services; and

**WHEREAS,** In California, nearly 300,000 youth up to age 18 experience homelessness, and law enforcement in the City of Fresno reports about 350 missing persons/ runaway cases of youth per month and the Department of Justice reports 4,030 children were reported missing in Fresno County in 2017; and there are 22,403 children in Fresno Unified School District and 4,848 children in Fresno County schools who are homeless; and

**WHEREAS,** Between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away in a year in the United States; True Colors reports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth comprise up to 40% of the homeless youth population in the United States, yet they make up only 7% of the general youth population. LGBTQ youth experience homelessness for a variety of reasons including homophobia, transphobia, issues with family, poverty, and abuse in the home; and

**WHEREAS,** The City of Fresno supports the efforts of Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Youth Services in working diligently to increase public awareness about, advocate on behalf of, and provide positive and safe alternatives to runaway and homeless youth and their families. If all of us work together, we can prevent the situations that compel youth to run away from home by teaching them awareness, stress management, communication skills and providing resources.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that we, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Fresno, do hereby proclaim November 2018 as:

## *“National Runaway Prevention Month”* *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 29<sup>th</sup> day of November 2018.*

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LEE BRAND, Honorable Mayor

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ESMERALDA SORIA, Council President

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STEVE BRANDAU, Council Vice President District 2

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OLIVER BAINES III, Councilmember 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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CLINT OLIVIER, Councilmember District 7