



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 11, 2020

**Menifee illuminates in Lime Green**

*City of Menifee joins statewide effort to promote mental health awareness*

Throughout the state of California, there is a movement to shine the light on the mental health stigma, to reduce the suicide rate and generate the awareness of prevention in Riverside County, by casting a lime green glow on government buildings.

Lime green is the official color of mental health awareness. Menifee City Hall will be lit through the month of May.

The City of Menifee joins with other locations in California that are participating in the Lime Green City Lights Activation, an initiative sponsored by Each Mind Matters/SanaMente. The aim of this initiative is to bring a powerful visual image to the effort to end the silence around mental illness and introduce a safe place to start a discussion about mental health awareness that is prevalent in all communities.

“Lighting these buildings in lime green shows the support of the City to promote understanding and extending compassion to people living with mental health challenges,” said Councilwoman Lesa Sobek. “I hope that everyone who sees City Hall at night during the month of May will take the opportunity to open a discussion about mental health and learn about resources that are available for our community.”

Nationwide, 1 in 5 people are living with mental health challenges. Older adults who face the medical and physical health challenges of aging – compounded by loss and isolation – are at higher risk of depression. More than 40 percent of the 8.9 million young adults nationwide with mental illness are not receiving the treatment they need. All of us know and love someone with mental illness.

“My Council colleagues and I appreciate that the Department of Behavioral Health is always there for our community, and especially now with COVID-19,” said Mayor Bill Zimmerman. “Through our collective efforts, and by sharing resources available and awareness about mental health, we are giving someone and their family more than hope but the assistance they need that in turn can save lives.”

Through the availability of community-based supports, many people are in recovery and live full, productive and rewarding lives. Since 1949, the entire month of May has been recognized as mental health awareness month to promote a greater understanding of mental health and to support the wellness and recovery of those living with mental illness.



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For more information about mental health resources in Riverside County, visit [rcdmh.org](http://rcdmh.org). Anyone needing urgent mental health care should call 2-1-1 or call 951 – 686 – HELP (4357).

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**ABOUT MENIFEE:** *Situated in the heart of southern Riverside County along Interstate 215, Menifee is a vibrant, new city of more than 95,000 residents who enjoy a pleasant year-round climate, abundant recreational offerings, reasonably priced housing and convenient proximity to some of Southern California's premiere attractions and employment centers. Within its 50 square miles, Menifee's business, retail and entertainment outlets are starting to shape the community's character and this growing economic base is also contributing favorably to the city's strong financial position. Menifee's growing family-oriented population values the city's ongoing commitment to public safety, community events and smart growth for the future. All of these elements are working together to support the city's strategic vision to make Menifee one of the state's most promising new cities.*