

Proclamation

- WHEREAS:** April is known in the United States as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month to ensure that survivors know that they are not alone; and
- WHEREAS:** On average, one in four girls and one in 13 boys will experience sexual abuse before the age of 18; and
- WHEREAS:** 93% of child survivors knew their abuser; and
- WHEREAS:** One in three women and one in four men will experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetime; and
- WHEREAS:** 38% of women and 14% of men have experienced sexual harassment at their workplace; and
- WHEREAS:** 47% of transgender individuals have experienced some form of sexual violence; and
- WHEREAS:** Only one out of three survivors report the crime to law enforcement due to barriers such as fear of the abuser, fear of not being believed, and/or feeling ashamed; and
- WHEREAS:** WIRC-CAA Victim Services annually receives hundreds of hotline calls from individuals who have experienced or witnessed some form of sexual violence; and
- WHEREAS:** Sexual assault, sexual abuse and sexual harassment are overwhelming moral, economic and public health burdens; and
- WHEREAS:** Support and counseling are essential to recover from the trauma of sexual violence; and
- WHEREAS:** Education about the crime of sexual violence and the mental and physical impacts on survivors are essential to ending the cycle of abuse and advancing equality, safety and respect among all individuals.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor of this City, do hereby proclaim the month of April as:

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

and urge all citizens to stand together against sexual violence, to offer support and understanding to survivors, and to participate in awareness activities.

In Witness Whereof, I set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the City to be affixed this day in the month of April in the year 2023.

Mayor

Date