

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, every ninety-two seconds someone in America is sexually assaulted; and

WHEREAS, one out of every six women and one out of every 33 men has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime, and one in three girls and one in six boys are sexually assaulted before the age of eighteen; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence results in emotional trauma, physical harm, or death and can have long-term effects on survivors. Survivors are more likely to have suicidal or depressive thoughts and may experience problems at work or school, and in their relationships with friends, family, and co-workers. Furthermore, certain situations and events may re-traumatize survivors; and

WHEREAS, the impact of sexual assault is not confined to any group of people, but crosses over all gender, economic, age, racial, sexual orientation, and social barriers; and

WHEREAS, seven out of ten survivors do not report their assault to the police and may not report it to anyone until years later for a number of reasons, including fear; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) Sexual Assault Center (SAC) is committed to equitable access to intervention and resources for survivors of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, non-native English-speakers and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender residents experience unique impediments to reporting and accessing services for sexual assault, and the SAC program is focusing efforts to improve and communicate the availability of services to these residents; and

WHEREAS, the SAC's Prevention and Education Program builds awareness to stop sexual violence before it occurs, because understanding and challenging belief systems that blame the victim and protect the rapist are key in achieving a violence-free community; and

WHEREAS, The SAC provided services to more than 260 adult and child survivors of sexual assault and received over 1,100 hotline calls during Fiscal Year 2018; and

WHEREAS, the DCHS Sexual Assault Center is commemorating the survivors of sexual violence through a City-wide public awareness campaign during April.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2019 as:

“SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH”

In the City of Alexandria and reaffirm the commitment of the City to the reduction and eventual elimination of sexual violence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 23rd day of April, 2019.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON

*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk