

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, someone is sexually assaulted every two minutes in the U.S., and at least two thirds of assaults are committed by someone known to the victim; and

WHEREAS, our children are disproportionately victimized by sexual violence - an estimated 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually assaulted before their eighteenth birthday, and at least 1 in 5 college women and nearly 1 in 5 college men are victims of forced sex during their time in college; and

WHEREAS, minority and marginalized people are the most vulnerable to sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, between 16% and 59% of women worldwide experience sexual violence by an intimate partner, and multiple rapes are most likely to occur as intimate partner sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, survivors of these types of abuse and violence are six times more likely to suffer from post traumatic stress disorder, three times more likely to suffer from depression, thirteen times more likely to abuse alcohol, twenty six times more likely to abuse drugs, and four times more likely to contemplate suicide than someone who hasn't experienced sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, our community promotes healing services for survivors of sexual assault by supporting our community partners: SafePlace, Monarch, Partners in Prevention Education, CIELO Project, and Providence St. Peters Sexual Assault Clinic; and

WHEREAS, our community is committed to social change and encourages everyone to work together to increase awareness about this issue, prevent future victimization, and support survivors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Olympia City Council hereby proclaims April 2014 as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

and urges all Olympians to respond to sexual assault by creating policies in their workplaces, by addressing oppression and sexual harassment when confronted by it, by engaging in discussions with family and friends, and by making the prevention of sexual assault a priority in their community.

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 1st DAY OF APRIL, 2014.

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

***Stephen H. Buxbaum
Mayor***