



Proclamation



Sexual Assault Awareness Month

WHEREAS, in 2001, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center organized the first nationwide Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and in 2009 Barack Obama became the first president to proclaim April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme is "I Ask," emphasizing the principle that asking for consent is a healthy, normal, and necessary part of everyday interactions; and

WHEREAS, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center calls on individuals and communities to commemorate Sexual Assault Awareness Month and show support for victims by wearing teal, a color that represents sexual assault awareness and prevention; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives; 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men experience sexual violence involving physical contact; and 1 in 6 women and 1 in 14 men experience sexual violence by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault carries a significant financial burden for victims and the national economy; the average lifetime cost of rape for each victim is over \$122,000, and the total cost of rape to the U.S. economy is \$127 billion, more than any other crime; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault is vastly under-reported; the U.S. Department of Justice estimates that only 23% of sexual assaults were reported to police in 2016, the lowest reporting rate for any violent crime; and

WHEREAS, victim-blaming continues to be an enormous problem and gross misperceptions persist regarding false reporting; a 2017 report in the Journal of Forensic Psychology found the rate of false accusations to be only 5%; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Rape Crisis Center has served this community since 1974 and is working to stop sexual violence and its impact through support, education, and advocacy; in 2018 it assisted over 700 survivors of sexual violence, their loved ones, and community professionals, and, through outreach efforts in local schools, provided 17,500 youth and adults with age-appropriate information about violence prevention; and

WHEREAS, despite the efforts of organizations and individuals across the country and around the world, sexual assault continues to be an unacceptably common crime; we must continue to address this crime with facts, valid analysis, steadfast dedication, and a unity of effort.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim **the month of April 2019** as "**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH.**" I encourage all residents of Carrboro to speak out against sexual violence and to support their local community's efforts to prevent and respond to these appalling crimes.

This the 9th day of April 2019.

Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor