



Proclamation

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, sexual violence is common: Over half of women and almost one-third of men in the United States have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence starts early: More than half of female rape survivors and more than 40% of male rape survivors reported that they were raped when they were minors; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence disproportionately affects some groups: Women and racial and ethnic minority groups, trans and gender-nonconforming people, people with disabilities, and children experience a higher burden of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence is costly: Rape is the most costly crime to its survivors, totaling over \$3 trillion in lifetime societal costs, considering such factors as medical costs, lost work productivity, pain and suffering, and lost quality of life; and

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

WHEREAS, the Orange County Rape Crisis Center, a nonprofit agency that has served this community since 1974, is working to stop sexual violence and its impact through support, education, and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Rape Crisis Center assisted more than 900 survivors of sexual violence, their loved ones, and community professionals in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Rape Crisis Center works with the county's 2 school systems and other groups to provide students with age-appropriate information about violence prevention, reaching more than 15,500 youth and adults each year; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Response Committee (DVSARC) brings together members of law enforcement, the medical community, the legal system, and community advocates to improve services for survivors of sexual assault who come forward; and

WHEREAS, victim-blaming continues to be an enormous problem in instances of rape and sexual assault; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Damon Seils, mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2023 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Carrboro. I encourage all residents to speak out against sexual violence and to support the local community's efforts to prevent and respond to these crimes.

This the 28th day of March 2023.

Damon Seils

Damon Seils, Mayor

