



CITY OF SEBASTOPOL

Proclamation of the City of Sebastopol Recognizing April 2018 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Whereas, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has a profound and lasting impact on every community member of Sonoma County; and

Whereas, national research indicates that one in five women will be raped at some point in their lifetime, and nearly half of all women will experience some form of sexual violence; and

Whereas, one in seventeen men will be raped at some point in their lifetime, and one in five men will experience some form of sexual violence; and

Whereas, every 98 seconds, a person is sexually abused, violated, exploited, or raped in America; and

Whereas, young people are at greatest risk of sexual violence, and youth aged 12 to 17 are two and a half times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted than their adult counterparts; and

Whereas, disabled people, people of color, LGBTQ people, homeless people, transgender people, undocumented people, and people of other marginalized identities are even more likely to be victimized by sexual violence; and

Whereas, over 18,000 members of the military and over 80,000 people who are incarcerated experience sexual violence every year; and

Whereas, we must work together to educate our community about sexual violence prevention, supporting survivors, and speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions; and

Whereas, with leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is evidence that we can be successful in preventing sexual violence in the City of Sebastopol through increased education, awareness, and community involvement; and

Whereas, the City of Sebastopol strongly supports the efforts of Verity, and encourages every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts to end sexual violence, including conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors of all backgrounds connect with crucial counseling and other support services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The City of Sebastopol reaffirms its commitment to address the issues of rape and sexual violence by: remembering victims, believing and supporting survivors, holding perpetrators accountable for their actions, and challenging societal myths and behaviors that perpetuate sexual violence in our community; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, along with the United States Government and State of California, the City of Sebastopol designates the month of April 2018 to be SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the Great Seal of the City of Sebastopol this 3rd day of April, 2018.



Patrick Slayter
Mayor

