

## **Resolution Recognizing April as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS**, victims of sexual violence include individuals of all ages, genders, races, ethnicities, and backgrounds, with marginalized and vulnerable populations disproportionately impacted; and

**WHEREAS**, sexual violence is widely underreported due to fear of retaliation, stigma, trauma, and lack of trust in systems of accountability, often resulting in lifelong mental, physical, and emotional impacts on survivors and their families; data from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center demonstrate the pervasive reach of sexual violence, with nearly half of women in the United States experiencing some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetimes, including more than one in five reporting rape or attempted rape; more than one in six men experiencing sexual violence; and disproportionately high rates impacting American Indian and Alaska Native women (more than four in five), individuals with intellectual disabilities (one in three), and transgender individuals (nearly half); and

**WHEREAS**, social media and digital platforms have increased opportunities for perpetrators to target young and vulnerable individuals, underscoring the urgency of strengthening prevention, education, and awareness efforts; and sexual assault remains a significant public safety and public health concern in Santa Clara County, where while concerted efforts have been made to prevent and respond to sexual violence and to promote community education and survivor support services much work remains to be done;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that April is recognized as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month to support survivors and affirm our commitment to trauma-informed care; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that collaboration is encouraged among local agencies, healthcare providers, schools, and community organizations to prevent sexual violence and improve survivor outcomes; and that residents, community leaders, and institutions are called upon to amplify awareness and prevention efforts, emphasizing our collective responsibility to build a safe, healthy, equitable, and inclusive community for all residents.

Submitted by DAWN