

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation (April 2014)

Whereas, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every resident of the City of Orlando; and

Whereas, rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment impact our community because statistics indicate that one in five women and one in 71 men will be raped in their lifetimes; and

Whereas, young people experience heightened rates of sexual violence and youth ages 12-17 are 2.5 times more likely to be victims of rape or sexual assault; 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 successfully prevent sexual violence in the City of Orlando through increased education, awareness and community involvement; and

Whereas, the City of Orlando strongly supports the efforts of the Victim Service Center, law enforcement, local partners and citizens to actively engage in public and private efforts to prevent sexual violence and help survivors connect with services; and

Whereas, the Victim Service Center of Central Florida, Inc., is the certified rape crisis center in Orange County, providing the community with 24/7 confidential emergency crisis response, victim advocacy, forensic examinations to collect DNA evidence, long-term therapy, support groups and outreach and prevention programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Buddy Dyer, Mayor of the City of Orlando, hereby do proclaim April 2014 as

"Sexual Assault Awareness Month"

in the City of Orlando and join the Victim Service Center of Central Florida and other anti-sexual violence advocates and support service programs to prevent sexual violence in our community.