

THURSTON COUNTY

Proclamation

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

WHEREAS, sexual violence is a broad term and includes: rape, incest, child sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, unwanted sexual contact, sexual harassment, and other acts when someone is forced or manipulated into unwanted sexual activity or experience without their consent, and;

WHEREAS, sexual violence is a serious preventable public health problem that affects millions of people each year including children, teens, adults, and seniors in our community who we live with, work with, and care about, and;

WHEREAS, sexual violence is highly prevalent with approximately 1 in 5 women and 1 in 67 men experiencing rape or attempted rape in their lifetime in the United States, and;

WHEREAS, minority and marginalized people are disproportionately impacted by sexual violence with 1 in 3 women of color and nearly half of all LGBTQ people experiencing sexual assault in their lifetime, and;

WHEREAS, by their senior year in high school, one in three girls and one in seven boys were sexually assaulted in Thurston County. Sexual abuse is an adverse childhood experience which impacts the health, safety, and well-being of children for their entire lives, increasing their risk of re-victimization and other types of abuse, and;

WHEREAS, survivors of sexual violence suffer from physical and psychological damage throughout their lifetime with significantly increased risk of chronic disease and medical conditions such as obesity, heart disease, chronic pain, gastrointestinal illness, reproductive problems, sexually transmitted diseases, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, drug and alcohol abuse, suicide, divorce, job absenteeism, academic failure, and financial difficulties, and;

WHEREAS, our community promotes sexual violence prevention efforts and healing services for survivors of sexual assault by supporting community partners such as: SafePlace, Monarch, Partners in Prevention Education, CIELO Project, YWCA, Family Support Center of South Sound, and Providence St. Peter Sexual Assault Clinic, and;

WHEREAS, we can prevent sexual assault by changing social norms that accept and tolerate violence against others through education, conversations, programs, and policies that promote healthy relationship skills and behaviors starting in youth, provide opportunities to empower and support girls and women, mobilize men and boys as allies, address oppression and sexual harassment when confronted by it, create protective and equitable learning, working, and living environments, hold perpetrators of sexual violence accountable, and support and believe all survivors

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Thurston County Board of Health is committed to promoting safety, respect, and equality for everyone and does hereby proclaim April 2018 as **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**, and urges all citizens to make the prevention of sexual violence a paramount priority in our community.

Adopted this 10th day of April, 2018

BOARD OF HEALTH



THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

Bud Baker
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