



# PROCLAMATION



**BASTROPTX**  
Heart of the Lost Pines / Est. 1832

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault in the City of Bastrop, Bastrop County and in the State of Texas is intolerable and must be stopped, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in this community; and

**WHEREAS**, The Family Crisis Center Sexual Assault Awareness campaign for 2022 calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in this community. The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it. Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm our community, and statistics show one in five women and one in 67 men will be raped at some point in their lives (Smith et al., 2017). Child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that one in six boys and one in four girls will experience sexual assault before age 18 (Dube et al., 2005). On campus, one in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted during their time in college (Krebs, Lindquist, Warner, Fisher, & Martin, 2007); and

**WHEREAS**, Sexual harassment, assault, and abuse can happen anywhere, including in online spaces. Now more than ever, screens and technology connect us with others — but for too long, harassment, cyberbullying, and sexual abuse have been seen as unavoidable behaviors online; and

**WHEREAS**, Each of us has the power to change that. Together, we can make a difference to build inclusive, safe, and respectful communities that thrive online and offline; and

**WHEREAS**, 2023 marks the twenty-second anniversary of SAAM, and the theme of this year's campaign is "Drawing Connections: Prevention Demands Equity." We can build online communities free from sexual harassment, abuse, and assault by practicing digital consent, intervening when we see harmful behaviors, and promoting online communities that value inclusion, safety, and respect; and

**WHEREAS**, In order to address this crime, an active response to sexual assault must engage the entire community including: city government, law enforcement, prosecutors, advocates, educators, reporters, and neighbors. By working together, our community can become more responsive to victims of this crime and safer for all; and

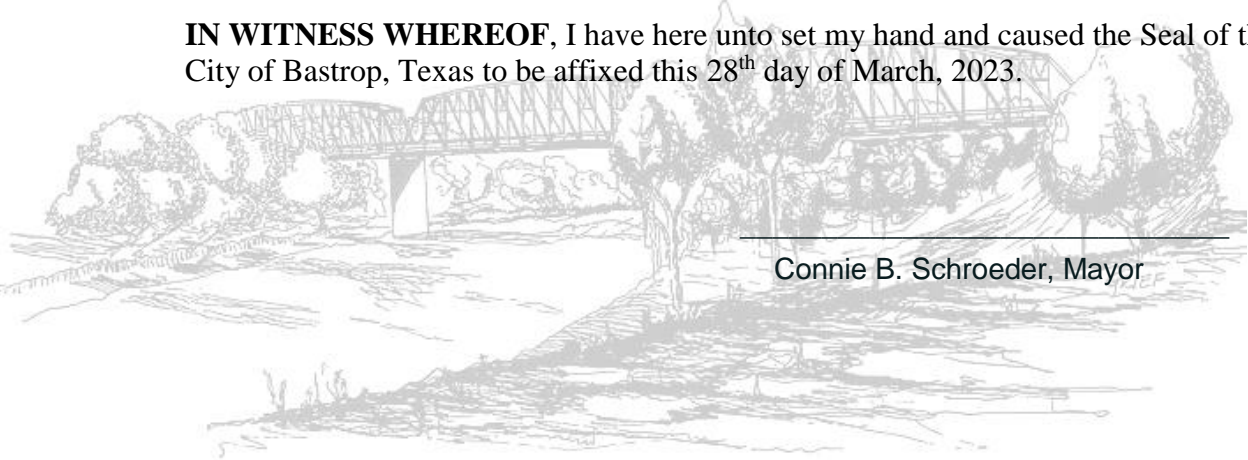
**WHEREAS**, Programs designed to educate and provide information to individuals about ways to help prevent sexual assault are encouraged throughout the community, while also providing survivors with safety, help, and justice through services and resources.

**NOW THEREFORE**, that the City of Bastrop joins the Family Crisis Center, victim advocates, and other support service programs in the belief that all City of Bastrop residents must be part of the solution to end sexual assault and I, Mayor Connie B. Schroeder, do hereby proclaim April as:

### **NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

And reaffirm this City's commitment to ending Sexual Assault in our community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Bastrop, Texas to be affixed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.



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Connie B. Schroeder, Mayor