

# City of Bayard

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## *Proclamation For Sexual Assault Awareness Month*

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in every community. SAAM aims to raise public awareness about sexual abuse, harassment, and assault and educate communities about how to be involved in prevention.

**WHEREAS**, this year's SAAM campaign theme, Building Connected Communities, calls on each of us to work together to prevent sexual abuse, harassment, and assault. We believe when anyone experiences sexual violence, every community member is affected. We must strive to build more connected, respectful, and inclusive communities to promote our collective well-being and protect against the risk of sexual violence. We believe all of our communities will be safer and stronger by making them more equitable for people of all gender identities and sexual orientations, races and ethnic backgrounds, ages, faiths, and abilities.

Statistics show:

- Over 53% of women and over 29% of men reported experiencing contact sexual violence in their lifetime (Chen, et al., 2023).
- Most women and men across all sexual identities who experienced contact sexual violence reported that the person who harmed them was someone they knew (Chen, et al., 2023).
- More than 1 in 4 non-Hispanic Black women (29%) in the United States were raped in their lifetime (Basile et al., 2022).
- 1 in 3 Hispanic women (34.8%) reported unwanted sexual contact in their lifetime (Basile et al., 2022).
- More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women (84.3%) have experienced violence in their lifetime (Rosay, 2016).
- 32.9% of adults with intellectual disabilities have experienced sexual violence (Tomsa et al., 2021).
- 47% of all transgender people have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives (James et al., 2016).

**WHEREAS**, as such, we must strive to create strong, connected communities that take care of one another and make decisions to ensure the safety and well-being of others to end sexual violence.

**WHEREAS**, The Building Connected Communities campaign is an opportunity for our community to join with others around the world in committing to prevent sexual abuse, assault, and harassment.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I John L. Ojinaga, Mayor of Bayard hereby proclaim the month of April 2024 as *Sexual Assault Awareness Month* and urge all citizens to observe this month by becoming aware of the tragedy of domestic violence, supporting those who are working toward its end, make a personal commitment to be "A Voice and Advocate Against Violence" and participate in community efforts to end violence.

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF***, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Bayard to be affixed this 8th day of April 2024.

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John L. Ojinaga  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tanya Ortiz  
Deputy Clerk