

# **PROCLAMATION**

## **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

**Whereas**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month was first observed by the United States in April 2001 to raise awareness about sexual assault, to prevent sexual violence, and to support victims/survivors; and

**Whereas**, sexual assault affects women, children, and men of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds; and

**Whereas**, nearly 1 in 5 women and 1 in 38 men have experienced completed or attempted rape during their lifetime; and

**Whereas**, sexual assault can be devastating for not only the victim/survivor but also for the family and friends of the victim/survivor; and

**Whereas**, every victim's/survivor's response is unique, and every victim/survivor has the right to receive support and understanding from friends, families, and their communities, as well as from medical, legal, social services, and criminal justice systems; and

**Whereas**, no one person, organization, agency or community can eliminate sexual assault on their own, but we can work together to educate our entire population about what can be done to prevent sexual assault, support victims/survivors and their loved ones, and increase support for agencies providing services to victims/survivors; and

**Whereas**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing sexual violence before it starts and shows support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy services and assistance to sexual assault victims/survivors; and

**Whereas**, The City of Grand Rapids, Minnesota supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and for every citizen, who actively engages in public and private efforts to prevent sexual violence. It's time for all of us to start conversations, take appropriate action, and support one another to create a safer environment for all.

**Now Therefore, Be it Proclaimed**, that I, Dale Christy, Mayor of Grand Rapids, Minnesota do hereby proclaim the month of April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto subscribed my name and the seal of the City of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, Two thousand twenty-two.

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Dale Christy, Mayor  
City of Grand Rapids