



Founded 1876
Incorporated 1899

TOWN OF JEROME, ARIZONA

POST OFFICE BOX 335, JEROME, ARIZONA 86331
(928) 634-7943

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation

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; and

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 must strive to build more connected, respectful, and inclusive communities to promote our collective well-being and protect against the risk of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, Sexual violence is common. Over half of women and almost 1 in 3 men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetimes. Additionally, 1 in 3 women and about 1 in 9 men experienced sexual harassment in a public place; and

WHEREAS, The root cause of sexual violence is power and oppression. We cannot eradicate sexual violence until we recognize and eliminate oppression in all forms; and

WHEREAS, With leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual violence through prevention education, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions; and

WHEREAS, We must work together to educate our community about what can be done to prevent sexual assault and how to support survivors; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Jerome strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts, including conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, Staff and volunteers of anti-violence programs at Verde Valley Sanctuary encourage every person to speak out when witnessing acts of violence however small and support victims of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, The Verde Valley Sanctuary provides comprehensive services for survivors of sexual violence; provides a Sexual Assault Friends and Family Guide on their website at <https://verdevalleysanctuary.org>; provides Youth Empowerments Services to teach

children/youth healthy relationships from Kindergarten to high school; and provides Educational Support Groups at the Cottonwood, Sedona, and Camp Verde libraries; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Jerome shares a critical concern for the survivors of sexual violence and a desire to support the needs for justice and healing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Christina “Alex” Barber, Mayor of the Town of Jerome, Arizona, on behalf of the Town Council, join anti-sexual violence advocates and support service programs in the belief that all community members must be part of the solution to end sexual violence. Along with the United States Government and the State of Arizona, I do hereby proclaim April as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month.”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Jerome, Arizona, to be affixed this 9th day of April, 2024.

Christina “Alex” Barber, Mayor Town of Jerome