

City of Kingsport

Proclamation

Whereas, sexual assault is a pervasive violation of human rights that affects individuals of all genders, ages, races, and backgrounds, impacting survivors, families, and communities in profound ways; and,

Whereas, every 68 seconds, an individual in the United States experiences sexual violence, resulting in trauma that can have long-lasting effects on mental, emotional, and physical well-being; and,

Whereas, Sexual Assault Awareness Month serves as a critical period to raise public awareness, educate our communities on prevention strategies, and promote a culture of healthy, respectful relationships; and,

Whereas, local organizations, such as the Branch House Family Justice Center, provide essential advocacy, support, and resources for survivors throughout Sullivan County; and,

Whereas, Branch House Family Justice Center serves as a beacon of hope for survivors by offering comprehensive services under one roof, ensuring they receive the legal, medical, and emotional support they need to heal and seek justice; and,

Whereas, the eradication of sexual violence requires the collective vigilance of law enforcement, educators, healthcare providers, and all residents to actively promote consent, accountability, and unwavering support for survivors; and,

Whereas, the City of Kingsport stands in firm solidarity with survivors and remains committed to fostering an environment where safety and respect are prioritized for every citizen.

Now, Therefore, I, Paul W. Montgomery, Mayor of the City of Kingsport, and on behalf of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Kingsport, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

in the City of Kingsport and call upon all residents to join in these efforts to prevent violence, champion the voices of survivors and work together to create a safer, more supportive community for all.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Kingsport, Tennessee, to be affixed this the 21st day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-six.

Paul W. Montgomery, Mayor