



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Sexual assault is pervasive: Every 68 seconds, someone is sexually assaulted in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, people living in poverty, LGBTQ+ people, elders, people with disabilities and others who have been historically oppressed are disproportionately affected by sexual violence in significant and complex ways; and

WHEREAS, Sexual assault is among the most underreported crimes for many reasons, but survivors who are already most marginalized face additional barriers to reporting, such as language, immigration status or disability. and

WHEREAS, Ending sexual violence requires us to address racism, sexism, and all forms of oppression that contribute to the perpetration of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, Sexual violence exists on a continuum of behavior that includes racist, sexist, transphobic, homophobic, ableist or other hate speech. This ranges from rape jokes to verbal harassment to physical assaults; and

WHEREAS, By working together as a community, we can alleviate the trauma of sexual violence by ensuring supportive resources are available to all survivors, while standing up to and actively disrupting harmful attitudes and behaviors that contribute to sexual violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lake Forest Park do hereby proclaim April 2024 as

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

in the City of Lake Forest Park and join advocates and communities throughout King County in taking action to prevent sexual violence by standing with survivors. Together, we commit to a safer future for all children, young people, adults, and families in our community.

Signed this 28th day of March 2024.

Thomas W. French, Mayor