



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, sexual assault is pervasive: every 68 seconds, someone is sexually assaulted in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, sexual violence impacts everyone. Anyone can be a victim of sexual violence, and people who commit sexual abuse, assault, and harassment exist in all of our communities. This underscores why it's important for all of us to care about sexual violence and take steps to promote the safety and well-being of others; 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**, survivors of sexual assault may never forget their victimization, but they can heal with support from family, friends and their communities. Sexual assault programs across King County and Washington state offer free and confidential support, advocacy, information and resources to survivors; 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 2025 as

### SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

joining 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 27th day of March 2024

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Thomas French, Mayor