



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 5835
April 6, 2021
Consent Calendar

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5835: Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Proclamation No. 265	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Proclaim April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the City of Mercer Island.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
DEPARTMENT:	City Council	
STAFF:	Benson Wong, Mayor Jessi Bon, City Manager Deb Estrada, City Clerk	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a	
EXHIBITS:	1. Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation No. 265	
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a	

SUMMARY

In the United States, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). The National Sexual Violence Resource Center's theme for SAAM 2021 is "We Can Build Safe Online Spaces." This year, local advocates will focus on steps we can all take to ensure our online spaces are safe. The pandemic has pushed many of us online for work, education, and for essential services ranging from ordering groceries to accessing medical and mental health care. With this shift, we have seen social media, Zoom, and other e-systems enhance our communication, social interaction, and even participation in local government meetings.

While there are upsides and opportunities inherent in our online spaces, the expanded presence of technology has also presented risks, especially for young people. As savvy as many young people are at navigating this space, it is on us to make sure they know how to respectfully interact and engage with others, how to be savvy media consumers, and to know where resources exist for fact-based information, both "in real life" and how those lessons apply to online interactions. To be effective in shifting attitudes and behaviors, those lessons must be reinforced and supported at home, in school, and in our neighborhoods.

KING COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE CENTER

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) provides sexual assault-related services for people of all ages in King County, WA, while working toward the ultimate goal of eliminating sexual violence and abuse from our communities. They are on the frontline with victims and their families, ensuring that all people affected by sexual assault get the treatment they need and advocacy they deserve. They are also at the forefront of change, guiding public policy development and delivering best practice education to create safer environments for everyone. To talk with someone, email <https://www.kcsarc.org/gethelp> or call 888.99.VOICE.

RECOMMENDATION

Mayor proclaims April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the City of Mercer Island.