



MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH APRIL 2024

This April, during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we call attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in our community. Sexual Assault Awareness Month aims to raise public awareness about sexual abuse, harassment, and assault.

An estimated 75% of Alaska women have experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetime (UAA 2020 Victimization Survey). In the US, one in ten children is sexually abused before their 18th birthday (DHHS 2022, Downing 2021).

This year's theme, *Building Connected Communities*, calls on each of us to work together to prevent sexual abuse, harassment, and assault. We believe that when anyone experiences sexual violence, every community member is affected. When we build a more connected, respectful, and inclusive community, we facilitate our collective well-being and protect against the risk of sexual violence. We believe that our community will be safer and stronger by making it more equitable for people of all gender identities and sexual orientations, races and ethnic backgrounds, ages, faiths, and abilities.

As such, we must strive to create a strong, connected community that takes care of one another and makes decisions that safeguard our community members from sexual violence. This April, during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, as we focus on the theme *Building Connected Communities*, let us seek ways to join with each other in committing to prevent sexual abuse, assault, and harassment.

Everyone deserves to live without violence at home and in their community. The Petersburg Borough joins with Working Against Violence for Everyone (WAVE) and other advocates and communities across Alaska and the nation in supporting victims of Sexual Assault and building a connected community for the prevention of sexual violence.

Therefore, I, Mark Jensen, Mayor of Petersburg Borough, hereby proclaim April 2024 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and April 23rd, 2024 as Wear Teal Tuesday.

Proclaimed this 15th day of April, 2024

Mark Jensen, Mayor