

PROCLAMATION

MISSOULA COUNTY, THE CITY OF MISSOULA, THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA AND THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has public health and safety implications for the city and county of Missoula and beyond; and

WHEREAS, rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment harm our community, our friends and our families. Studies show one in five women and one in 38 men have experienced completed or attempted rape; one in four girls and one in 13 boys experience child sexual abuse at some point before the age of 18; and on campus, one in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted during their time in college; and

WHEREAS, statistics can tell us how many people are harmed, but talking to a survivor reveals the true impact of this violence: loss of safety and trust, and sometimes even the loss of hope; and

WHEREAS, the goal of SAAM is more than awareness. The ultimate goal is prevention of sexual harassment, abuse and assault, and prevention means stopping sexual violence before it happens by changing norms that allow it to exist in the first place, ranging from attitudes, values and behaviors to laws, institutions and social norms; and

WHEREAS, we ask our community to join us in the “Building Safer Spaces: Reclaiming Our Right to Safety” campaign and champion the power of asking and receiving consent. Prevention is everyone’s job; all of us can help create safe environments. We can intervene to stop behavior, promote healthy attitudes and relationships, believe survivors and connect them to resources; and

WHEREAS, we strongly support the efforts of national, state and local sexual assault prevention and response programs in their efforts to create safe and healthy communities.

NOW THEREFORE, we, John Engen, mayor of the City of Missoula; Josh Slotnick, Juanita Vero and Dave Strohmaier, Missoula County commissioners; Seth Bodnar, President of the University of Montana and Noah Durnell, president of the Associated Students of the University of Montana, do hereby join the Student Advocacy Resource Center of the University of Montana, the YWCA Missoula, Project Beacon of All Nations Health Center, First Step at Providence St. Patrick Hospital, the Make Your Move! Project of the Missoula City-County Health Department, The Crime Victim Advocacy Division of the Missoula County Community Justice Department and communities across the country in playing an active role to prevent sexual violence. Along with the United States government and the state of Montana, we do hereby proclaim April 2022 as **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH** in the City of Missoula and Missoula County.

CITY OF MISSOULA

John Engen

5F161404D1F88CD6E8CE90FA9648C26
John Engen, Mayor

readysign

MISSOULA COUNTY

Juanita Vero

6F45D36DCC4159C2B2D512DC93A576B2
Juanita Vero, Commission Chair

readysign

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Seth Bodnar

00E14027D1A42536A7D1D93C85D9B7D
Seth Bodnar, President

readysign

Josh Slotnick

37D31E069FA2244FA409545EBDD56E
Josh Slotnick, Commissioner

readysign

David Strohmaier

A6ACE081F2505A3A08967F7EBBB8C312
David Strohmaier, Commissioner

readysign

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Noah R B Durnell

B432D0F80B2C515A7979635E176FF998
Noah Durnell, President

readysign

