

Town of Chapel Hill

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in the United States 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of sexual or physical violence committed by an intimate partner (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2010); and

WHEREAS, in the United States rape is the most costly crime to its survivors, totaling \$127 billion a year (U.S. Department of Justice, 1996); and

WHEREAS, victim-blaming continues to be an enormous problem in instances of rape and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Rape Crisis Center assisted over 700 survivors of sexual violence, their loved ones, and community professionals during 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Rape Crisis Center works with the county's two school systems and other groups to provide students with age-appropriate information about violence prevention, reaching over 17,500 youth and adults each year; and

WHEREAS, the coordination of the Orange County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is bringing together members of law enforcement, the medical community, the legal system, and other community advocates to improve services for survivors of sexual assault who come forward; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Rape Crisis Center, a nonprofit agency that has served this community since 1974, is working to stop sexual violence and its impact through support, education, and advocacy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Chapel Hill Town Council, do hereby proclaim **April 2019** to be

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

in the Town of Chapel Hill and encourage all citizens to speak out against sexual violence and to support their local community's efforts to prevent and respond to these appalling crimes.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL ON THIS THE TENTH DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN.



Pam Hemmons
