

Town of Chapel Hill

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Orange County Rape Crisis Center assisted over 900 survivors of sexual violence, their loved ones, and community professionals during 2022; 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 15,500 youth and adults each year; and

WHEREAS, the coordination of the Orange County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Response Committee (DVSARC) 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, 1 in 5 American women have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2010); and

WHEREAS, in the United States rape is the most costly crime to its survivors, totaling over \$3 trillion in lifetime costs considering factors such as medical cost, lost earnings, pain, suffering, and lost quality of life (NCVRC, 2017); and

WHEREAS, in the United States 81% of women and 24% of men have experienced some form of sexual or physical violence committed by an intimate partner (NCVRC, 2018); and

WHEREAS, trans and gender non-conforming people, people with disabilities, and children face the highest rates of sexual violence in our country; 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, 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 we, the Chapel Hill Town Council, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2023 as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

In Chapel Hill and encourage everyone 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 NINETEENTH DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE.

Dan Hermon