

# PROCLAMATION

## MISSOULA COUNTY AND THE CITY OF MISSOULA

**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 67 men will be raped at some point in their lives; one in six boys and one in four girls will experience sexual assault before age 18; and on campus, one in five women and one in sixteen 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, prevention meaning stopping sexual violence before it happens by changing norms that allow it to exist in the first place, from attitudes, values and behaviors to laws, institutions and social norms; and,

**WHEREAS**, we ask our community to join us in the “Strong Alone, Fearless Together” 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, and Josh Slotnick, Juanita Vero and Dave Strohmaier, Missoula County commissioners, 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 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 2021 as

## SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Missoula and Missoula County.

### CITY OF MISSOULA

*John Engen*

John Engen, Mayor

### COUNTY OF MISSOULA

*David Strohmaier*

David Strohmaier, Chair

*Josh Slotnick*

Josh Slotnick, Commissioner

*Juanita Vero*

Juanita Vero, Commissioner

