Proclamation

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS | NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Sexual Assault Awareness Month– April 2023

WHEREAS, **NEWS**, Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Services is commemorating 41 years of service to survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse in Napa County, and having opened as the county's Rape Crisis Center in 2010 to provide safety to those experiencing sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 the National Sexual Violence Resource Center launched the first **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** campaign, and in 2009 the Obama Administration officially recognized April as National **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**, enshrining our Country's commitment to promoting education of sexual violence, promoting consent, ending victim-blaming, and showing support for victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** is about promoting safety, respect and equality, and standing up and speaking out against harmful cultural norms and attitudes that allow sexual violence to persist. This year's national campaign of "Drawing Connections: Prevention Demands Equity" calls on all individuals, communities, organizations, and institutions to change ourselves and the systems surrounding us to build racial equity and respect; and

WHEREAS, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm our community. Statistics from the U.S. Center of Disease Control shows that over half of women and almost 1 in 3 men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetimes; and, that 1 in 4 women and about 1 in 26 men have experienced completed or attempted rape. Sexual violence disproportionately affects women, minors, and racial and ethnic minority groups who experience a higher incidence of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2021/2022 **NEWS** provided services to over 1,700 of our Napa County community members—of which 232 were survivors of sexual abuse, and half of those were minors—including 24-hour response and crisis intervention, financial aid, and advocacy, accompaniment and assistance of civil and criminal justice proceedings, referrals, and support completing victim compensation applications. The **NEWS** Help Line received 3,197 calls for assistance.

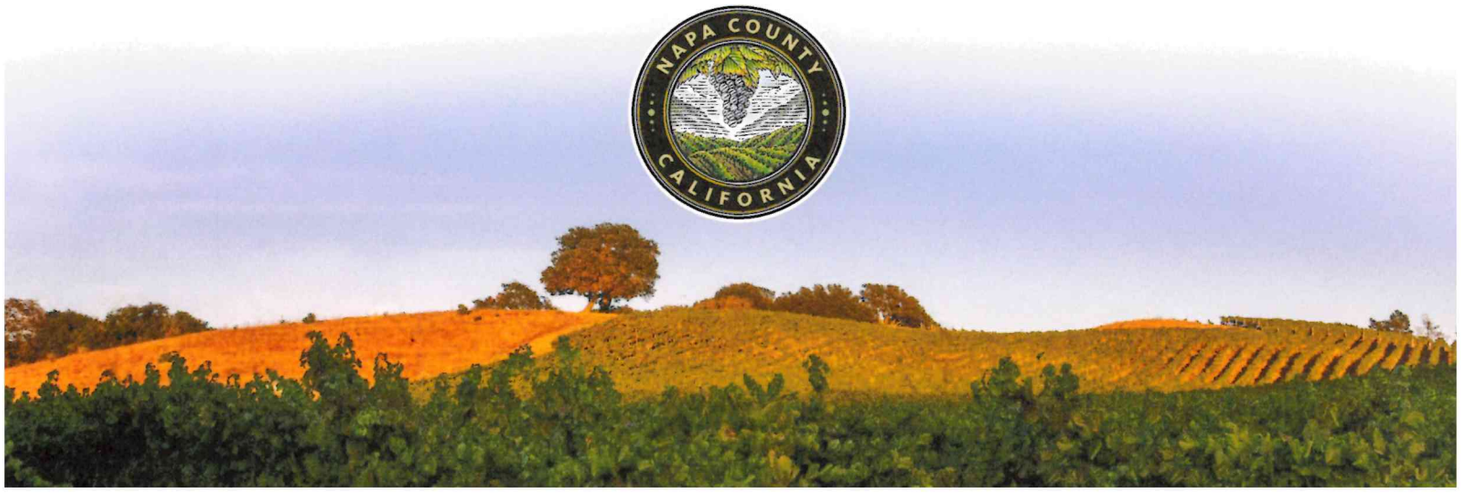
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that this Board of Supervisors, County of Napa, State of California, on this 28th day of March 2023 does hereby join **NEWS**, advocates, and communities across the country in taking action to prevent sexual violence. We do hereby proclaim **April 2023** as **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**, in Napa County, and we ask the community to join in their effort, not only in April, but all year long, to be part of the effort to end sexual violence.

Belia Ramos, Chair

Joelle Gallagher, Vice Chair

Ryan Gregory, District 2

Anne Cottrell, District 3

Alfredo Pedroza, District 4

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS