

Proclamation

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS | NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Sexual Assault Awareness Month– April 2024



WHEREAS, in 2024, **NEWS**, Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Services commemorates 42 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**, preserving our Country's commitment to promoting education of sexual violence, promoting and understanding consent, ending victim-blaming, and showing support for victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** is an observance dedicated to highlighting the importance of 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 "Building Connected Communities" calls on all individuals, organizations, and institutions to come together and work together to help reduce the risk of sexual abuse, assault, and harassment in our communities; and

WHEREAS, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm all corners of a community, however sexual violence disproportionately affects women, minors, and racial and ethnic minority groups. Statistics from the U.S. Centers for 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; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2022/2023 **NEWS** provided services to over 1,800 of our Napa County community members— of which, 271 were survivors of sexual abuse, and nearly half of those were minors. Services include 24-hour response and crisis intervention, financial aid and advocacy, accompaniment and assistance with civil and criminal justice proceedings, referrals, and support completing victim compensation applications.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that this Board of Supervisors, County of Napa, State of California, on this 9th day of April 2024, does hereby join **NEWS**, advocates, and communities across the country in taking action to prevent sexual violence. We recognize **April 2024** as **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** in Napa County, and we urge the community to join in the effort not only in April, but all year long, to be part of the effort to end sexual violence.

Joelle Gallagher, Chair

Anne Cottrell, Vice Chair

Ryan Gregory, District 2

Alfredo Pedroza, District 4

Belia Ramos, District 5

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

