



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**Parks & Community Services**  
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[www.kirklandwa.gov](http://www.kirklandwa.gov)

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Lynn Zwaagstra, Director  
Leslie R Miller, Human Services Supervisor

**Date:** March 21, 2019

**Subject:** SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Mayor proclaim April 2019 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Kirkland, Washington.

### **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

Sexual violence is a major public health, human rights and social justice issue. Sound Cities Association has again partnered with King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) to encourage all Cities to participate in recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The national theme for Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2019 is "I Ask." The campaign theme, I Ask, champions the message that asking for consent is a healthy, normal, and necessary part of everyday interactions. You can find more information about national SAAM efforts [here](#).

To bring awareness to this issue in Kirkland, staff will share this proclamation and links to KCSARC resources via the City of Kirkland website and social media.

Prevention is possible when everyone gets involved. KCSARC encourages us to talk to the young people in our lives about consent and healthy relationships. Use [He Told Me Not To Tell](#) (for conversations with children) and [100 Conversations](#) (for conversations with youth) to guide your discussions.

KCSARC offers resources for victims, their families and the community. KCSARC is available 24-hours a day through their Resource Line, which is staffed by professional advocates. This is the only resource of its kind in King County. 888.99.VOICE

KCSARC's content-rich website is also a good resource for tips on prevention as well as survivors and families. [www.kcsarc.org](http://www.kcsarc.org)

Kirkland resident Heather Strothers will again be present to accept the proclamation on behalf of the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center.



# A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

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## Proclaiming Sexual Assault Awareness Month April 2019 in Kirkland

**Whereas**, in Washington State, 45% of women and 22% of men report having experienced sexual violence in their lifetime; and

**Whereas**, the risk is even higher for people of color, refugees, immigrants, LGBTQ and other marginalized community members and one recent study shows 94% of Native American women in Seattle report they have been sexually assaulted; and

**Whereas**, in King County, more than 7,300 adults and children received specialized assistance from organizations with programming for sexual assault victims in 2018; and

**Whereas**, demand for services at the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center jumped 19% last year, reflecting the cultural shift that is taking place that has prompted many survivors who have remained silent to now speak up and seek the help they need to heal; and

**Whereas**, of the 4,888 individuals served by the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center in 2018, half were children; and

**Whereas**, nationally, 1 in 5 children under 18 are sexually abused; and

**Whereas**, in 2016, 18% of 10th graders in Washington reported that they had been made to engage in unwanted kissing or sexual contact; and

**Whereas**, negative impacts of sexual violence trauma on women, men, children and youth include fear, concern for safety, symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, injury, and missed work or school; and

**Whereas**, working together to educate our community about sexual violence, supporting survivors when they come forward, speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions, and engaging in best-practice sexual violence prevention work helps end sexual violence.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland join advocates and communities throughout King County in taking action to prevent sexual violence by standing with survivors and proclaiming April 2019 Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Together, we commit to a safer future for all children, young people, adults, and families in our community.

Signed this 2nd day of April, 2019

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Penny Sweet, Mayor