



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Parks & Community Services
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Lynn Zwaagstra, Director
Leslie R Miller, Human Services Supervisor
Regi Schubiger, Program Coordinator

Date: March 26, 2020

Subject: 2020 SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor proclaim April 2020 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Kirkland, Washington.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Sexual violence is a major public health, human rights and social justice issue. King County Sexual Assault Resource Center provides services to Kirkland residents and all of King County. Its purpose is to alleviate, as much as possible, the trauma of sexual assault for victims and their families. Their current message is to join them in demanding change: BE LOUD! BE LOUD is a rallying cry that encourages supporters, leaders, and the community to speak up about sexual violence. Demand a world without sexual violence. Challenge norms by taking a stand in difficult conversations about sexual violence. Don't excuse victim-blaming.

The national theme for this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month 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 Sexual Assault Awareness Month efforts and resources [here](#).

With directives by the Governor to "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" incidents of domestic violence are increasing as people are forced to shelter in place and stress levels rise due to psychological and economic impacts. Now, more than ever, is the time to stand against domestic violence and call on everyone to join the fight to end it. 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



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Proclaiming Sexual Assault Awareness Month April 2020 in Kirkland

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

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

Whereas, in King County, more than 7,000 adults and children received specialized assistance from organizations with programming for sexual assault victims in 2019; and

Whereas, of the 4,903 individuals served by the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center in 2019, almost half were children, and 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, incidents of domestic violence are rising during the COVID-19 pandemic, as families are sheltering in place during times of significant psychological, emotional and economic stress; 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 2020 Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

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

Signed this 7th day of April, 2020

Penny Sweet, Mayor