The County of Centre PROCLAMATION

NUMBER 5 OF 2018

WHEREAS, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a time to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it. This year's theme is "Embrace Your Voice" informing individuals on how they can use their words to promote safety, respect, and equality to stop sexual violence before it happens.

WHEREAS, individuals can embrace their voices to show their support for survivors, stand up to victim blaming, correct harmful misconceptions, promote everyday consent, and practice healthy communications with children and;

WHEREAS, sexual assault is a serious and widespread problem. — Nearly 1 in 5 women in the United States have experienced rape or attempted rape some time in their lives, and every 98 seconds an American is sexually assaulted and;

WHEREAS, prevention is possible, and it is happening. The Centre County Women's Resource Center is already successfully combating the risk of sexual violence through conversations, programs, policies, and research-based tools that promote safety, respect, and equality and;

WHEREAS, by promoting safe behaviors, thoughtful policies, and healthy relationships, we can create safe and equitable communities where every person is treated with respect and;

WHEREAS, the community can honor Sexual Assault Awareness Month by "Embracing Your Voice" and calling on new partners and community members to help expand sexual assault prevention efforts and ensure the next generation fosters attitudes that promote healthy relationships, equality, and respect.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in recognition of the work done by agencies and organizations that provide services to victims and honor survivors, the Centre County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of April 2018 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" and urge all citizens to raise their voices and play a role in the elimination of violence in our community.

ADOPTED this 27th March day of 2018.

Michael Pipe, Chair

Mark Higgins, Vice Chair

Steven G. Dershem

Margaret N. Gray, Administrator/Chief Clerk