

The County of Centre

PROCLAMATION

NUMBER 6 OF 2021

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), observed each April, is a time to draw attention to the prevalence of sexual assault and aims to increase awareness and empower individuals to take steps for prevention in our community; and

WHEREAS, the first rape crisis center in the United States, the Bay Area Against Rape, opened in 1971; and

WHEREAS, by the 1980's the National Coalition Against Sexual Assault was mobilizing groups across the country to take action and in 1994, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act; and

WHEREAS, in the United States alone, nearly one in five women and one in 67 men have been raped at some time in their lives, and that one in six boys and one in five girls are sexually abused before the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, almost half of all transgender people have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives, and these rates are even higher for trans people of color; and

WHEREAS, historically SAAM campaigns have discussed ways that individuals and communities can stop sexual assault before it happens, by changing behaviors and promoting respect. While each campaign has a different theme, they all share the same common goals: to raise awareness about sexual assault and share how it can be prevented, whether that is through education about healthy sexuality, consent or bystander intervention; and

WHEREAS, 2021 marks the 20th Anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the theme this year is "**We Can Build Safe Online Spaces**". Consent and boundaries can be violated in a number of ways and the trauma of online abuse is all too real for many survivors; and

WHEREAS, Centre Safe is urging Centre County residents to work together to educate our community about sexual violence prevention, supporting survivors, and speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Centre County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim **April 2021** as **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** and calls upon all citizens to create online spaces that are built on the foundational values of practicing consent, keeping kids safe, and supporting survivors.

ADOPTED this 6th day of April 2021.



CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Michael Pipe
Michael Pipe, Chair

Mark Higgins
Mark Higgins, Vice Chair

Steven G. Dershem
Steven G. Dershem

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray
Margaret N. Gray, Administrator