

**To:** Goodhue County Board

**From:** Goodhue County Sexual Assault Multi- Disciplinary Action Response Team (SMART)

**Subject:** Sexual Assault Awareness Month

**Date:** March 22, 2022

The Goodhue County SMART was formed 15 years ago and the mission of the SMART is to foster a unified interagency, survivor centered, and culturally competent response to those experiencing sexual violence. Current members of the Goodhue County Safe Harbor Protocol Team include: HOPE Coalition, Red Wing Police Department, Lake City Police Department, Goodhue County Health & Human Services (Child Protection and Public Health), Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC), Mayo Clinic Health Systems- Red Wing, Goodhue County Attorney's Office, Goodhue County Sheriff's Office, Covered Bridge Family Resources, and Minnesota State College Southeast.

The attached Proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month highlights that sexual violence can impact all residents and it is a community responsibility to work together to educate others about what can be done to prevent sexual assault and how to support survivors.

The members of the Goodhue County SMART ask the Goodhue County Board to sign the attached Proclamation, recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

## **Proclamation in Recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

**Whereas**, sexual violence is a major public health, human rights and social justice issue that impacts every person in Goodhue County.

**Whereas**, nationally one in three women and one in four men will experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetime; and

**Whereas**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month draws attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has implications for every community member; and

**Whereas**, the purpose of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to raise public awareness about sexual violence, educate our community on how to prevent it and share resources available to those impacted by sexual assault.

**Whereas**, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual violence through prevention education, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions; and

**Whereas**, we should start the conversation about consent and healthy relationships when our children are young and continue having these discussions throughout the course of our lives, and

**Whereas**, ending sexual violence is a community responsibility. We must work together to educate our community about what can be done to prevent sexual assault and how to support survivors; and

**Whereas**, anyone can be a leader in preventing and ending sexual violence. As employers, educators, parents, and friends, we all have an obligation to uphold the basic principle that every individual should be free from violence and fear; and

**Now therefore, be it resolved**, that the Goodhue County Board, on behalf of all residents of Goodhue County, does hereby proclaim the month of **April 2022**, as

### **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

in Goodhue County, to keep our community members safe from this crime and to stand with survivors and victims of sexual assault.