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MEMORANDUM

TO: Goodhue County Board of Commissioners
Goodhue County Administrator Scott Arneson

FROM: Erin L. Kuester, Assistant County Attorney 3 

RE: Request to Recognize and Proclaim the month of April 2023 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Goodhue County

DATE: April 3, 2023

In April of each year, there is an organized nationwide effort to raise public awareness about sexual violence as well as to promote education about prevention efforts. Sexual violence knows no geographic or physical boundaries, impacting every community and the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health of its members. Goodhue County is no exception. Ending sexual violence is a community responsibility and the Goodhue County Board has an opportunity to be part of the conversation and part of the prevention response.

I am a member of the Goodhue County Sexual Assault Multidisciplinary Action Response Team (Goodhue County SMART Team) which is comprised of members of law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocacy, Goodhue County Health and Human Services, the medical community, the faith community, and the education community. Members of the multidisciplinary team work together to respond to as well as work to prevent acts of sexual violence within the county. We ask that the Goodhue County Board join our voices and our efforts by passing a Proclamation in Recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Together we speak up, stand against, and fight to keep every community member free from sexual violence.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

ELK/jk
Attachment

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 2023, 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.