

# ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

## Proclamation

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### SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in this community; and

**WHEREAS**, the vision for Arlington County is one in which Arlington is a peaceful and respectful community – where diversity is celebrated, violence is not tolerated and where all people are empowered to build healthy relationships free from the fear, or threat of, all forms of domestic and sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington is dedicated to addressing the issue of sexual violence, ensuring perpetrators are held accountable and those impacted by sexual violence are offered timely, appropriate support services; and

**WHEREAS**, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment are serious crimes that affect people of all races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and income levels in our community - national statistics indicate that one in three women and one in four men will have experienced sexual assault in their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, in Arlington, we know that young people in our community specifically are impacted as seen by statistics indicating that 50% of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade Arlington Public School female students have experienced sexual harassment at school and 20% have been sexually assaulted by a dating partner; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington's Sexual Assault Response Team and Project PEACE work collaboratively to support joint response polices to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to supporting those who have experienced sexual assault; and

**WHEREAS**, any Arlington resident regardless of age, gender, socioeconomic status, race, sexual orientation, ability, and/or immigration status has access to a comprehensive array of services from the 24/7 crisis hotline and police and medical assistance, to ongoing mental health, legal, and housing supports; and

**WHEREAS**, the Arlington County Board recognizes that prevention of sexual violence is possible and strongly supports the efforts of national, state, local partners, and every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts, including conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address and prevent sexual violence;

**NOW THEREFORE, I**, Katie Cristol, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim April 2021, as

### SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

in Arlington and urge our residents to learn more about preventing sexual violence and to support the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victims and survivors.



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Katie Cristol  
Chair