

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 our 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, as a community, Arlington is dedicated to addressing the issue of sexual violence - ensuring that 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, we know that young people in our community are impacted as seen by statistics indicating that 50% of 8th, 10th, and 12th 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, race, sexual orientation, ability, socioeconomic status, and/or immigration status has access to an array of services, from the 24/7 crisis hotline and police and medical assistance, to ongoing mental health, legal, and housing supports; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Matt de Ferranti Chair of the County Board in Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim April 2020, as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

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



Matt de Ferranti
Chair