

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 the Arlington 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 intimate partner and sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, Arlington is dedicated to addressing the issue of sexual violence, ensuring that those who use violence are held accountable and those victimized are offered timely, appropriate, and holistic 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, young people in our community are especially vulnerable as indicated by statistics showing that 17% of high school girls and 6% of high school boys in Arlington Public Schools say they “had experienced sexual violence” in the past 12 months; and

WHEREAS, any Arlington resident who experiences sexual assault 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 Doorways crisis hotline and Safehouse, police and medical assistance, to ongoing mental health, legal, and housing supports; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with local first responders and social services agencies, Arlington’s Sexual Assault Response Team and Project PEACE work to support collaborative response policies to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to preventing and responding to sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, the Arlington County Board recognizes that prevention of sexual violence is possible and therefore strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of 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 in order to ensure the safety of vulnerable members of our community;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Christian Dorsey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, hereby proclaim April 2023, as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

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



Christian Dorsey
Chair