



PROCLAMATION

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, Arlington County envisions 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, 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 evidenced 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, 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 crisis hotline and police and medical assistance to ongoing mental health, legal, and housing supports; and

WHEREAS, the Arlington County Board recognizes that preventing sexual violence is possible through leadership and strongly supports national, state, local, and community efforts to raise awareness, support survivors, and work together to end sexual violence;

NOW THEREFORE, the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, does hereby proclaim proclaim **April 2025**, 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.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Takis Karantonis".

Takis Karantonis
Chair