



# PROCLAMATION

## SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month calls attention to the reality that sexual violence affects individuals, families, and the broader Arlington community; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington County envisions a peaceful and respectful community where diversity is celebrated, violence is not tolerated, and all people are empowered to build healthy relationships free from fear, coercion, abuse, and violence; and

**WHEREAS**, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment are serious harms that affect people of all ages, races, genders, sexual orientations, abilities, and backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, national data show that sexual violence remains widespread, with nearly half of women and one in six men experiencing contact sexual violence in their lifetime, and Arlington County recognizes that young people in our community are also impacted; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington's Sexual Assault Response Team and Project PEACE work collaboratively to support coordinated responses and help ensure that survivors have access to services that protect safety, autonomy, dignity, and healing; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington County Board recognizes the strength, resilience, and leadership of survivors and affirms the importance of survivor centered, compassionate, and equitable responses, especially for individuals from historically marginalized and underserved communities who may face additional barriers to accessing services; and

**WHEREAS**, preventing sexual violence requires education, awareness, early support, and continued collaboration among public agencies, schools, service providers, advocates, and residents, and the Arlington County Board supports efforts to raise awareness, prevent sexual violence, support survivors, and strengthen a culture of safety, respect, and accountability;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, does hereby proclaim April 2026 as **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH** in Arlington County and urges all residents to learn more about preventing sexual violence, supporting survivors, and promoting safe and respectful communities.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew de Ferranti".

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Matt de Ferranti  
Chair, Arlington County Board