



## ***SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION***

***April 2022***

**WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month uplifts year-round efforts that call attention to the prevalence of sexual violence and its widespread impacts, while promoting responses that lead to positive cultural change; and**

**WHEREAS, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetime; and (CDC, 2015)**

**WHEREAS, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm our community, and statistics show that every 68 seconds an American is sexually assaulted; and (Department of Justice, 2020)**

**WHEREAS, the goal of this month is to raise public awareness about sexual violence; provide education on individual and societal impacts; and encourage community level responses to sexual violence; and**

**WHEREAS, the theme of this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign in Duval County is "Healing: Past, Present, and Future". This theme focuses on transgenerational trauma, recognizing traumatic experiences, including those stemming from sexual violence, can have effects that get passed down through generations, and that sexual violence and its effects through generations is a public health issue; and**

**WHEREAS, this theme invites community members to stop the cycle by working to end rape culture through awareness, community engagement, and culturally competent supportive services. We must champion survivor-supportive responses and services, center the voices of survivors, and take action to ensure our community is a culturally affirming environment for survivors of all backgrounds; and**

**WHEREAS, prevention is the ultimate goal and everyone's responsibility: All of us can create and promote safe environments. We can intervene to stop concerning behavior; promote and model healthy attitudes and relationships; and believe survivors and assist them in finding resources. Each of us must be part of victim-centered change that improves systemic responses to ALL survivors and for their loved ones in generations to come**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, *Mayor Lenny Curry*, join advocates and community members in raising awareness about sexual violence, centering the needs of those who have been harmed, and advancing equitable support for every survivor. Each day of the year is an opportunity to create change for the future. I do hereby proclaim April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.**

- 1. Centers for Disease Control, National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, (2015)**
- 2. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019 (2020)**