

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. CP16-0263 In support of “Start by Believing” Public Awareness Campaign

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver shares a critical concern for victims of sexual violence and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the Denver Police Department received a total of 1,484 Sex Crimes reports and these victims’ needs were served by The Blue Bench and the Denver Health Medical Center conducted 327 forensic exams in support of these reports; and

WHEREAS, a national average of 1 in 4 women in Colorado will experience a completed or attempted sexual assault during their lifetime and 1 in 17 men in Colorado will experience a completed or attempted sexual assault during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, according to studies conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sexual assault is the most unreported crime in the United States with 54% sexual assaults committed not being reported; and

WHEREAS, research documents that victims are far more likely to disclose their sexual assault to a friend or family member, and when these loved ones respond with doubt, shame, or blame, victims suffer additional negative effects on their physical and psychological well-being; and

WHEREAS, the “**Start by Believing**” public awareness campaign, a program of End Violence Against Women International, is designed to improve the responses of friends, family members, and community professionals, so they can help victims to access supportive resources and engage the criminal justice system.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Denver City Council in concert with the Denver Department of Public Safety and the Denver Sex Assault Interagency Council, supports the launch of the “**Start by Believing**” public awareness campaign on Friday, April 17, 2015; and declares this day to be the “**Start by Believing Day**” throughout the City and County of Denver.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to the Department of Safety and the Denver Sex Assault Interagency Council.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 11, 2016

PRESIDENT