

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 23-0370

A Proclamation Recognizing “Start by Believing” Sexual Assault Awareness Month

WHEREAS, the month of April signifies Sexual Assault Awareness Month, an annual campaign which provides opportunities to raise awareness about sexual violence, prevent sexual assaults, and let victims of sexual assault know they are believed and there are resources for them; and

WHEREAS, half of all women and 1 in 3 men will experience sexual violence in their lifetime, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys will experience sexual assault as children; and

WHEREAS, Denver continues into its ninth year of the Start by Believing campaign, Denver continues to assure victims and survivors of sexual assault that they are believed and encourages the public to Start by Believing victims of sexual assault – as they would believe any victim of a crime; and

WHEREAS, there are many myths surrounding sexual assault and those who commit these horrendous crimes, which Denver continues to demystify through public outreach and education; and

WHEREAS, research around sexual assault show that 90-98% of sexual assault reports are true, 80% of the time the suspect is known to the victim, and believing victims significantly increases the chances that they will seek help from advocacy groups or law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, teaching about consent is vital to reducing occurrences of sexual assault and letting victims know they are believed leads to the likelihood that they will receive the assistance they need to overcome the assault; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Police Department, Denver District Attorney’s Office, Denver Health, and The Blue Bench remain committed to reducing the number of sexual assaults, holding offenders accountable and providing support to victims of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, throughout the first week of April, to bring additional awareness to the underreported crime of sexual assault, the Denver City and County Building, McNichols Building, Ellie Caulkins Opera House and Buell Theatre at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and Ball Arena will be illuminated in teal to shine a light on the importance of believing victims of sexual assault and the importance of consent.

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

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver hereby recognizes April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encourages the people of Denver to Start by Believing victims of sexual assault.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Denver Police Department, Denver District Attorney’s Office, Denver Health, and The Blue Bench.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 3, 2023

PRESIDENT