

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 156

Approved April 29, 2016

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every community member of Providence and Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment impact our community as reflected in estimates that show that one in eight women in Rhode Island has been sexually assaulted during her lifetime, and nationally, nearly one in five women and approximately one in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, Child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that in this country one in six boys and one in four girls will experience a sexual assault before the age 18; and

WHEREAS, Studies have consistently found that people with developmental disabilities face higher rates of sexual assault, with 15,000 to 19,000 raped each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Individuals, organizations, and public officials must work together to educate our community about sexual violence prevention, to support survivors, and to speak out against harmful attitudes and actions; and

WHEREAS, With leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is evidence that we can successfully prevent sexual violence in Providence through increased education, awareness, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, National organizations, such as the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, and local advocacy groups, such as Day One, the Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center, promote April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month as part of a campaign to prevent sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen, to actively engage in public and private efforts to prevent sexual violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby join advocates and communities across the country in supporting efforts to prevent sexual violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Providence recognizes the month of April each year as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month."

APR 21 2016

RECEIVED AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE

Mayor

Date:

4/29/16