

PROCLAMATION
Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in Ann Arbor, Michigan
April 2024

WHEREAS, sexual assault, abuse, and harassment are widespread problems and affect adults and children across all socioeconomic backgrounds; and we must recognize the added barriers faced by survivors from historically marginalized communities — particularly survivors who are Black, Indigenous, Latino, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other people of color and those in the LGBTQ+ community; and

WHEREAS, we must recognize that those in the LGBTQ+ community are affected by sexual violence at a higher rate than those who are heterosexual. Per the CDC, 3 in 5 lesbian women, 4 in 5 bisexual women, and half of heterosexual women in the U.S. experienced some form of contact sexual violence during their lifetimes.

WHEREAS, we must recognize that there is a strong link between sexual violence and chronic disease, as well as greater long-term economic burdens on survivors of sexual assault. The trauma of assault is further compounded by the high costs of medical and mental health care, navigating the criminal justice system, and lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence happens in all communities including online spaces. We are spending more time online, whether that is for work, school or for entertainment. Consent and boundaries can be violated online in many ways, and the trauma of online abuse is all too real for many survivors; and

WHEREAS, each of us has the power to change all of this. We can all make a difference to ensure our communities are safer and that survivors feel supported and heard; and

WHEREAS, awareness and prevention and most importantly, support for survivors are the heart of the SAAM and it is a time to draw attention to the prevalence of sexual violence and educate individuals and communities about how to prevent it and help those in need.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Christopher Taylor, Mayor of the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2024 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Ann Arbor and I join advocates and communities across the country in preventing sexual violence and uplifting survivors of this crime. Together we can build safer and more supportive spaces now and into the future.

*I hereby set my hand and seal
This 1st day of April 2024*



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher Taylor".

*Christopher Taylor
Mayor of the City of Ann Arbor*