



## PROCLAMATION

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### SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

**WHEREAS**, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment are widespread serious crimes that affect people of all races, ages, gender identities, sexual orientations and income levels, with national statistics indicating that one in three women and one in four men will experience sexual assault in their lifetime, and

**WHEREAS**, in Arlington, we know that young people are impacted as seen by statistics indicating that 50% of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade Arlington Public School female students have experienced sexual harassment at school and 20% have been sexually assaulted by a dating partner; and

**WHEREAS**, our vision is one in which Arlington is a peaceful and respectful community where violence is not tolerated and where all people are empowered to build healthy relationships free from the fear or threat of all forms of domestic and sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington is dedicated to ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable and that those impacted by sexual violence are offered timely, appropriate support services; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington's Sexual Assault Response Team and Project PEACE work collaboratively to support joint response polices to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to supporting those who have experienced sexual assault; and

**WHEREAS**, any Arlington resident, regardless of age, gender identity, socioeconomic status, ability, race, sexual orientation, and/or immigration status, has access to a comprehensive array of services from a 24/7 crisis hotline, police and medical assistance to ongoing mental health, legal, and housing supports; and

**WHEREAS**, the Arlington County Board is dedicated to ensuring the safety of all members of our community, and believes that prevention of sexual violence is possible, and therefore strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen, to actively engage in conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address and prevent sexual violence;

**NOW THEREFORE, I**, Libby Garvey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim **April 2020** as

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in Arlington County, and urge our residents to learn more about preventing sexual violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victims and survivors.

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Libby Garvey  
Chair

