

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Proclamation of Sexual Assault Awareness Month
DEPARTMENT: Community Services
PRESENTED BY: Colleen Kelly, Community Services Manager

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

In observance of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, this proclamation recognizes the serious and widespread problem of sexual assault and the importance of support and advocacy in the aftermath of trauma. In Washington State, 45% of women and 22% of men report having experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. Rape is the most under-reported crime in the United States and costs the US more than any other crime. This form of violence is a serious public health problem, both physically and psychologically. It is critical to have a coordinated response and system of care in place to address the consequences of sexual assault. Community education is a vital component of eliminating sexual violence.

RECOMMENDATION

The Mayor should read the proclamation.

Approved By: City Manager **DT** City Attorney **MK**



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS in Washington State, 45% of women and 22% of men report having experienced sexual violence in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS in King County, more than 7,400 adults and children received specialized assistance from organizations with programming for sexual assault victims in 2019; and

WHEREAS demand for services to help survivors heal has increased significantly since 2016, reflecting the cultural shift that is taking place that has prompted many survivors who have remained silent to now speak up and seek the help they need to heal; and

WHEREAS negative impacts of sexual violence trauma on women, men, children and youth include fear, concern for safety, symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, injury, and missed work or school; and

WHEREAS, King County is home to many organizations that provide culturally and linguistically specific services for survivors from various racial/ethnic, faith, and cultural communities, survivors who are immigrants and refugees, survivors who are LGBTQ, and survivors with disabilities, and these culturally specific services are critical to effectively respond to the specific needs and barriers many survivors face; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Will Hall, Mayor of the City of Shoreline, on behalf of the Shoreline City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of April as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Shoreline and join advocates and communities throughout King County in taking action to prevent sexual violence by standing with survivors. Together, we commit to a safer future for all children, young people, adults, and families in our community.

Will Hall, Mayor