

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Proclamation of Sexual Assault Awareness Month		
DEPARTMENT:	Recreation, Cultural and Community Services		
PRESENTED BY:	Bethany Wolbrecht-Dunn, Community Services Manager		
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proclamation

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 United States 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.

The King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) is the City's local sexual assault service provider and its purpose is to alleviate, as much as possible, the trauma of sexual assault for victims and their families. Their mission is to give voice to victims, their families, and the community; create change in beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors about violence; and instill courage for people to speak out about sexual assault.

RECOMMENDATION

The Mayor should read the proclamation.

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



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in Washington State, 45% of women and 22% of men report having experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, and approximately 29% of the survivors who were supported by community sexual assault organizations in Washington State identified as Black, Indigenous and people of color. Of those identifying ethnicity, 21% identified as Latinx/Hispanic; and

WHEREAS, rape is amount the most underreported crimes for many reasons, including victim's fear of being disbelieved or further traumatized within the legal system. Additional barriers, such as language, immigration status, gender bias, and systemic racism further oppress and silence victims, and

WHEREAS, individual and community impacts of sexual violence are rooted in and compounded by racism, sexism, heterosexism, and other forms of oppression. Black, Indigenous and other people of color, people living in poverty, LGBTQ+ people, elders, people with disabilities, and other people targeted by oppression are disproportionately affected by sexual violence in significant and complete ways; and

WHEREAS, negative impacts of sexual violence trauma on adults, youth, and children include fear, concern for safety, physical and mental health conditions, including symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, injury, and missed work or school; and

WHEREAS, anyone can be a leader in preventing and ending sexual violence. As employers, educators, parents, and friends, we all have an obligation to uphold the basic principle that every individual should be free from violence and fear;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Keith Scully, 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.

Keith Scully, Mayor