



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; and

WHEREAS, only an estimated 28% of rape and sexual assaults are reported to law enforcement officials, which is among the most underreported crimes for many reasons, including victims' fear of being disbelieved or further traumatized within the legal system; and

WHEREAS, individual and community impacts of sexual violence are rooted in and compounded by racism, sexism, heterosexism, and other forms of oppression, and 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 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, and 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, Chris Roberts, 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.

Christopher Roberts, Mayor