



City of Mercer Island, Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in this community in some way.

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

WHEREAS, in King County, 6,657 adults and children received sexual assault services at accredited Community Sexual Assault Programs last year; and

WHEREAS, nationally, 1 in 5 children under 18 are sexually abused; and in King County last year, 2,000 children and youth who have been sexually abused received services from the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, 18% of 10th graders in Washington reported that they had been made to engage in unwanted kissing or sexual contact; 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, working together to educate our community about sexual violence, supporting survivors when they come forward, speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions, and engaging in best-practice sexual violence prevention work helps end sexual violence

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Debbie Bertlin, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim April 2018 as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Mercer Island and urge all join advocates and communities across 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.

APPROVED, this 3rd day of April 2018



Mayor Debbie Bertlin