



Armondo Pavone Mayor

Proclamation

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

Whereas, rape is among the most underreported crimes for reasons that include victim's fear of being disbelieved or further traumatized within systems designed to support them; and additional barriers, such as language, immigration status, gender bias, and systemic racism, further oppress and silence victims; and

Whereas, impacts of sexual violence are rooted in and compounded because Black, Indigenous and other people of color; people living in poverty; LGBTQ people; elders; people with disabilities and other people are targeted by oppression and affected by sexual violence in significant and complex ways; and

Whereas, statewide, 29% of the survivors who were supported by a community sexual assault organization identified as Black, Indigenous and people of color in 2019, and of those identifying ethnicity, 21% identified as Latinx/Hispanic; and

Whereas, sexual violence exists on a continuum of behavior and includes racist, sexist, transphobic, homophobic and other hate speech ranging from rape jokes to verbal harassment to threats of rape and violence, including hate speech online; and

Whereas, 41% of Americans have been personally subjected to harassing behavior online, and people from historically oppressed groups are more likely to experience online harassment, mirroring inequities we see elsewhere in society; and

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

Whereas, working together as a community, we can alleviate the trauma of sexual violence by ensuring supportive resources are available to all survivors, while standing up to harmful attitudes and behaviors that contribute to sexual violence;

Now, therefore, I, Armondo Pavone, Mayor of the City of Renton, do hereby proclaim April 2022 to be

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

in the City of Renton, and I encourage all residents to join advocates and communities throughout King County in taking action to prevent sexual violence by standing with survivors.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Renton to be affixed this 4th day of April, 2022.

Armondo Pavone, Mayor – City of Renton, Washington

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