

MOTION: BAILEY

**April 6, 2021
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 21-200**

SECOND: BODDYE

RE: PROCLAIM – APRIL 2021 – SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVOR AWARENESS MONTH

ACTION: APPROVED

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Survivor Awareness Month is intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual assault is a widespread crisis and has both public and personal health implications for every community member of Prince William County, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment impact our community as seen by statistics indicating that every 73 seconds an American is sexually assaulted (2018 National Crime Victimization Survey); and

WHEREAS, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been a victim of an attempted or completed assault in their lifetime; and 1 in 9 girls and 1 in 53 boys under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult (2018 National Crime Victimization Survey); and 47% of transgender people are sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetime (2015 U.S. Transgender Survey); and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), members of the LGBTQ+ community experience sexual violence and stalking at similar or higher rates than heterosexuals (National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey); and 20,500 military service members (13,000 women and 7,500 men) have reported a sexual assault (2018 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the 2018 National Crime Victimization Survey, approximately 70% of rape or sexual assault victims experience moderate to severe distress, as well as increased problems with bosses, co-workers, family, and friends; and victims of child abuse are four times more likely to develop symptoms of drug abuse and three times more likely to experience a major depressive episode; and 81% of women and 35% of men who have experienced sexual assault will develop Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms (2010 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey); and

WHEREAS, with leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual assault in Prince William County, Virginia through prevention education, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of assault responsible for their actions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby proclaims April 2021 as Sexual Assault Survivor Awareness Month;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors will hereby continue partnerships with local organizations to create a protective and empowered environment for all survivors;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby, while recognizing the unique needs of sexual assault reporting within Prince William County, Virginia, encourages law enforcement agencies to create an environment that makes survivors feel both heard and validated through sensitivity, implicit bias training, transparency, and handling reports with the utmost respect;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby strongly supports the efforts of all national, state, and local partners; of every individual to actively engage in public and private efforts; to uplift conversations about what sexual assault is, how to prevent sexual assault, how to support sexual assault survivors with services, and how every segment of Prince William County can work together to better address sexual assault.

Votes:

Ayes: Angry, Bailey, Boddye, Franklin, Lawson, Wheeler

Nays: None

Absent from Vote: None

Absent from Meeting: None

Abstain from Vote: Candland, Vega

ATTEST: _____

Andrea P. Madden

Clerk to the Board