



Staff Report

For City Council Meeting of 4/6/2022

Subject - New Business - Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation

Synopsis: Julia Aikman with The Harbor has requested that the Gearhart City Council make a proclamation declaring April to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Her correspondence and the proclamation are attached.

Recommendation: Staff recommend the Council motion to proclaim April Sexual Assault Awareness Month per the attached proclamation.

Legal Analysis: N/A

Financial Analysis: N/A

Respectfully Submitted,



Chad

Fwd: The Harbor--Sexual Assault Action Month Proclamation 2022

1 message

Paulina Cockrum <councilposition3@cityofgearhart.com>
To: Krysti Ficker <krysti@cityofgearhart.com>

Mon, Mar 21, 2022 at 3:22 PM

for the april agenda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Julia Aikman** <julia@harbornw.org>
Date: Mon, Mar 21, 2022 at 11:48 AM
Subject: The Harbor--Sexual Assault Action Month Proclamation 2022
To: mayorcockrum@cityofgearhart.com <mayorcockrum@cityofgearhart.com>

Hello Mayor Cockrum,

I hope this email finds you well. I so appreciate the support you provided that our agency and our survivors in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As April is Sexual Assault Action Month, I would like to ask for your support again.

Sexual assault affects everyone: it occurs across all populations, regardless of gender, age, race, sexual orientation, or class. According to current statistics, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men have experienced sexual assault, and nearly half of all transgender individuals will be sexual assaulted at some point in their life. Additionally, 44% of sexual assault and rape victims are under 18. The World Health Organization has explored the effects of sexual violence, and the results are devastating. According to WHO, victims of sexual assault are 3 times more likely to suffer from depression, 6 times more likely to suffer from PTSD, 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol, 26 times more likely to abuse drugs, and 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide. Awareness and prevention of sexual violence has never been more important.

As you probably know, The Harbor is Clatsop County's certified advocacy center for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The Harbor's mission is to provide advocacy, prevention, and support, while promoting self-determination and hope for survivors. We provide a number of free and confidential services to survivors, including emergency, confidential shelter, a 24-hour support line, and court and hospital accompaniment. Each year, approximately 5% of Clatsop County residents access The Harbor's services. Last year, we worked with 104 survivors of sexual violence.

April 2022 marks the official 21st anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness/Action Month, though many activists have fought for the movement for much longer. SAAM's focus is awareness and prevention of sexual violence. Awareness is the foundation for prevention work, and prevention is the foundation for finding a solution for ending sexual violence.

As a leader in our community, we are hoping you will join us in working toward our goals of awareness and prevention this April for SAAM. We want to increase awareness around the prevalence and impact of sexual violence, decrease stigma, improve prevention efforts, and stand with survivors.

I am writing this email to ask if you would be willing to announce April as Sexual Assault Action/Awareness Month. I attached the proclamation to this email.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if there are any ways that I, or The Harbor, can support you in any way.

Thank you for all that you do to support the work of The Harbor and all of the survivors in our community.

Respectfully,

Julia Aikman she/her/hers Why pronouns matter

Prevention Program Coordinator/Lead Sexual Assault Advocate

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PO Box 1342, Astoria, OR 97103

www.harbornw.org

24-hour Crisis Line: (503) 325-5735

24-horas linea de crisis en español 1-855-938-0584



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Paulina Cockrum | Mayor of Gearhart
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CITY OF
GEARHART

Proclamation

Whereas: Sexual assault affects Oregonians every day, whether as a victim or survivor or as a family member, friend, partner, neighbor, employer or co-worker of a survivor; and

Whereas: Oregonians of all gender identities experience sexual violence, including an estimated 1 in 4 adult women who has been the victim of rape, and nearly 1 in 5 men who has experienced sexual violence in their lifetime; and

Whereas: Certain populations in Oregon experience much higher rates of sexual violence due to systemic oppression and inequity; and

Whereas: Compassionate, courageous, and dedicated individuals, local organizations, and other partners have provided services and support for victims and survivors, and worked to prevent sexual violence for decades; and

Whereas: Sexual violence is preventable, and all communities are strengthened by encouraging healthy, non-violent interactions, relationships and social norms; and

Whereas: Every individual and community in Oregon has a role to play to help eliminate sexual violence by working together to promote social change.

Now, therefore, we, City Council Members, do hereby proclaim April 2022 to be:

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

in the City of Gearhart and encourage all Gearhart residents to join in this observance.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator