



PROCLAMATION

PROCLAMATION #20230410-5.G

Recognizing April 2023 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month

WHEREAS, the nonprofit Orange County Rape Crisis Center assisted over 900 survivors of sexual violence, their loved ones, and community professionals during 2022 and has served this community since 1974; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Rape Crisis Center works with the county's two school systems and other groups to provide students with age-appropriate information about violence prevention, reaching over 15,500 youth and adults each year; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Rape Crisis Center is meeting a community need by opening a second location in Hillsborough in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Response Committee is bringing together members of law enforcement, the medical community, the legal system and other community advocates to improve services for survivors of sexual assault who come forward; and

WHEREAS, one in five American women have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, rape is the costliest crime to its survivors in the United States, totaling over \$3 trillion in lifetime costs considering factors such as medical cost, lost earnings, pain, suffering and lost quality of life; and

WHEREAS, 81% of women and 24% of men in the United States have experienced some form of sexual or physical violence committed by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, trans and gender non-conforming people, people with disabilities and children face the highest rates of sexual violence in our country; and

WHEREAS, victim-blaming continues to be an enormous problem in instances of rape and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Rape Crisis Center is working to stop sexual violence and its impact through support, education and advocacy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jenn Weaver, mayor of the Town of Hillsborough, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the Town of Hillsborough and encourage all residents to speak out against sexual violence and to support their local community's efforts to prevent and respond to these appalling crimes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hillsborough to be affixed this 10th day of April in the year 2023.



Jenn Weaver, Mayor
Town of Hillsborough