

1 [National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month - April 2020]

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3 **Resolution recognizing and affirming April 2020 as “National Sexual Assault**  
4 **Awareness and Prevention Month” in the City and County of San Francisco in order to**  
5 **raise awareness, affirm support, and deter sexual violence.**

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7 WHEREAS, According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, between 2007 and  
8 2017, approximately—3,018,600 women and 453,200 men were victims of rape and sexual  
9 assault; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Justice and the Department  
11 of Health and Human Services, an estimated 399,861 individuals, including victims under 18  
12 years of age, in the United States experienced sexual violence in 2017; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the 2017 Child Maltreatment Report of the Department of  
14 Health and Human Services, in 2017, child protective services agencies substantiated 58,114  
15 cases of sexual abuse of children under 18 years of age; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), an  
17 individual is sexually assaulted every 73 seconds in the United States, but for every 1,000  
18 rapes committed in the United States, on average only 330 rapes are reported to law  
19 enforcement agencies, 59 reported rape cases lead to an arrest, 10 rape cases are referred  
20 for prosecution, 6 rape cases lead to a felony conviction, and 5 convicted rapists are  
21 sentenced to some form of incarceration; and

22 WHEREAS, The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) reports that the  
23 self-reported incidence of rape or sexual assault more than doubled from 1.4 victimizations  
24 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in 2017 to 2.7 in 2018; and

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1           WHEREAS, NSVRC also reports that despite the increase in self-reports of rape and  
2 sexual assault, there was a decrease in reporting to police from 2017 to 2018 with forty-  
3 percent of rapes and sexual assaults being reported to police in 2017 and only twenty-five  
4 percent reported in 2018; and

5           WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than  
6 half of all female rape victims reported being raped by an intimate partner; and

7           WHEREAS, Sexual violence may take many forms, including rape by an acquaintance,  
8 stranger, spouse or group, as well as incest, child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation,  
9 elder sexual abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation of disabled persons, commercial sex  
10 trafficking, sexual harassment, and stalking; and

11           WHEREAS, RAINN reports that 55% of sexual assaults occur at or near a victim's  
12 home; and

13           WHEREAS, As reported by Rise, an organization that has created civil rights  
14 protections for more than 60 million survivors of sexual assault through its passage of state-  
15 by-state bills and established the Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights, current Statewide  
16 and local Shelter in Place orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic trap many sexual assault  
17 victims with their attackers; and

18           WHEREAS, Sexual assault does not discriminate on any basis and can affect any  
19 individual in the United States; and

20           WHEREAS, Studies have suggested that the rate at which American Indians and  
21 Alaska Natives experience sexual violence is significantly higher than for other populations in  
22 the United States; and

23           WHEREAS, According to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, in addition to  
24 immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual assault can have numerous adverse  
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1 consequences for the victim, which may include post-traumatic stress disorder, substance  
2 abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide; and

3 WHEREAS, Advances in deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) technology have enabled law  
4 enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute the perpetrators in tens of thousands of  
5 previously unsolved sexual assault cases; and

6 WHEREAS, National, State, territorial, and Tribal coalitions, community-based rape  
7 crisis centers, and other organizations across the United States are committed to increasing  
8 public awareness of sexual violence and eliminating sexual violence through prevention and  
9 education; and

10 WHEREAS, Important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile  
11 justice agencies, health professionals, public health workers, educators, first responders, and  
12 victim service providers;

13 WHEREAS, Thousands of volunteers and staff at rape crisis centers, State coalitions  
14 against sexual assault, and nonprofit organizations across the United States play an important  
15 role in making crisis hotlines and other services available to survivors of sexual assault;

16 WHEREAS, Senators Dianne Feinstein, (D-Calif.), Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), and Chuck  
17 Grassley (R-Iowa) introduced a resolution recognizing April 2019 as National Sexual Assault  
18 Awareness and Prevention Month; and

19 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors is committed to the awareness,  
20 prevention, and deterrence of sexual violence affecting individuals in the United States; now,  
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes April 2020 as  
23 National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.