

2024 RES-396

**RECOGNIZING APRIL 2025 AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH AND
APRIL 6-12, 2025, AS NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK**

WHEREAS, April is recognized nationally as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) and the 2025 theme is "Together We Act, United We Change;" and

WHEREAS, this theme is a call to action to prevent sexual abuse, harassment, and assault, and to foster safety, support, and empowerment, which starts by recognizing the need to continue educating, amplifying survivor voices, and engaging people of all ages, in creating a future free from sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence remains a deeply pervasive issue not only in Dane County, but in the United States. More than 53% of women and over 29% of men report experiencing sexual violence in their lifetimes. In Wisconsin, one in five high school students reports being forced into unwanted sexual activity, and 43% of LGBTQ+ youth report experiencing sexual assault or coercion; and

WHEREAS, while these statistics reflect the alarming prevalence of sexual violence, this April it is important to raise awareness and recognize the strength, resilience, and courage of survivors by uplifting their voices, fostering healing, and reaffirming our commitment to build a safer, more compassionate, and empowered community for all; and

WHEREAS, the week of April 6-12, 2025, recognizes National Crime Victims' Rights Week, with the theme "Kinship," which calls for people to elevate our shared humanity in supporting all survivors and victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, this theme reflects the need for kinship with survivors to drive connections, strengthen access to services and rights, and foster healing; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the U.S. recorded 22.5 violent victimizations per 1,000 people age 12 or older, while acknowledging that many incidents remain unreported. The lifelong impacts of violence on survivors and their families demand continued education, prevention, and trauma-informed support; and

WHEREAS, Dane County is committed to advancing justice, equity, and safety by supporting local organizations, advocates, and initiatives that work continuously to end violence and promote healing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes April 2025 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and April 6-12, 2025, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Dane County, and honors the strength, resilience, and courage of survivors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors is committed to advancing policies and supporting local organizations and initiatives to prevent violence, uphold victims' rights, and ensure accessible, compassionate, and culturally responsive support for all survivors.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors encourages community members and organizations to support local advocacy efforts, reflect on the impacts

of violence toward members of our community, and work for a future of justice, safety, and healing for all.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2025.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk