



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, April has been declared Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a time to bring attention to the widespread issue of sexual violence and empower communities to take action; and

WHEREAS, this year’s theme, “Together We Act, United We Change” highlights the power of working together to create safer, more respectful environments for all; and

WHEREAS, sexual abuse, assault and harassment affect individuals of every background; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nationally, almost half of all women and almost one in three men experience sexual assault in their lifetime and at least one in four girls and as many as one in six boys are sexually abused before turning eighteen years old and at least half of our 2SLGBTQ+ community are sexually assaulted in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, while great strides have been accomplished in raising awareness, establishing state and federal funding for, and improving public policies responding to sexual assault communities continue to struggle with the myths and harms perpetuated by systemic sexism, racism and oppression, resulting in sexual assault and abuse; and

WHEREAS, continued and increased prioritization and investment into raising visibility to sexual assault and abuse awareness, prevention and survivor response and support is and always will be critical to dismantling the myths, beliefs, behaviors and systems that promote sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, Pierce County Rape Relief - now known as Rebuilding Hope Sexual Assault Center was incorporated in 1975 and is rumored to be the longest continuously operating community sexual assault center in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, after celebrating 50 years of dedicated service as Pierce County’s designated sexual assault center, Rebuilding Hope Sexual Assault Center remains committed to its mission to provide support, promote healing and partner to end sexual violence. Rebuilding Hope provides confidential, comprehensive, life-long support to sexual assault and abuse survivors, and their loved ones, of any form of sexual violence, regardless of when it happened, regardless of survivors’ relationship to their offender, and regardless of whether the violence was ever reported. Through collaboration, education and prevention, Rebuilding Hope works to eradicate the beliefs and behaviors that promote sexual violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Lakewood City Council do hereby proclaim the month of April 2025 as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Lakewood and encourages all residents to seek information, education and support related to sexual assault and abuse. PROCLAIMED this 21st day of April, 2025.

Jason Whalen, Mayor

Mary Moss, Deputy Mayor

Ryan Pearson, Councilmember

Michael D. Brandstetter, Councilmember

Patti Belle, Councilmember

J. Trestin Lauricella, Councilmember

Paul Bocchi, Councilmember