

# Town of Jerome Proclamation

IT'S TIME ... TO TALK ABOUT IT! CONNECT. RESPECT. PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

It's time ... to speak up! Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation.

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has public health implications for every community member of the Town of Jerome; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Jerome shares a critical concern for the victims of sexual violence and a desire to support the needs for justice and healing; and

**WHEREAS**, Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment impact our community as seen by statistics indicating that 1 in 2 women, 1 in 4 men, and 1 in 2 transgender individuals have experienced contact sexual violence in their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, We must work together to educate our community about what can be done to prevent sexual assault and how to support survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, Staff and volunteers of anti-violence programs at Verde Valley Sanctuary encourage every person to speak out when witnessing acts of violence however small and support victims of sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS**, With leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual violence in the Town of Jerome through prevention education, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Jerome strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts, including conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Christina "Alex" Barber, Mayor of the Town of Jerome, Arizona, on behalf of the Town Council, join anti-sexual violence advocates and support service programs in the belief that all community members must be part of the solution to end sexual violence. Along with the United States Government and the State of Arizona, I do hereby proclaim April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Jerome, Arizona, to be affixed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.



Christina "Alex" Barber, Mayor of the Town of Jerome