

FILE OF THE CITY CLERK

COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 30 – 2024

INTRODUCED BY PRESIDENT BAKAY – APRIL 9, 2024

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL - APRIL 9, 2024

WHEREAS, sexual abuse, harassment, and assault harm our community, and national statistics show that more than half of women, and one in three men will experience sexual violence in their lives, and one in five women and one in 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape; and

WHEREAS, children and young adults are the most at risk for sexual assault, with one in four boys and one in three girls experiencing a sexual assault before age 18; and

WHEREAS, sexual abuse, harassment, and assault affects people of all racial, social, economic, and religious backgrounds, ages, ethnicities, abilities, and sexual orientations in the United States; and

WHEREAS, members of the LGBTQ+ community are disproportionately at risk for sexual violence, with nearly half of transgender people experience sexual assault in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, people of color, especially Black women, are disproportionately at risk for sexual assault and nearly 1 in 4 Black women are survivors of rape, and 41% of Black women experience sexual coercion and other forms of unwanted sexual contact, and 34% of Hispanic women reported unwanted sexual contact in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional effects, sexual abuse has long-term consequences that may include post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, depression, homelessness, eating disorders and suicide; and

WHEREAS, YWCA Lancaster’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Counseling Center, the designated rape crisis center in Lancaster County, has ensured continuation of services with 24/7 hotline access, no cost counseling and therapy, advocacy, and prevention education efforts; and


WHEREAS, the goal of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2024 campaign “Building Connected Communities” is to “create strong, connected communities that take care of one another;” and addressing the social and structural determinants of health, such as education, income, employment, community safety, and social support, is crucial to improving the conditions in which we live, learn, work, and play; and

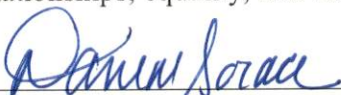
WHEREAS, prevention efforts that make the connection between all forms of oppression, including racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism, ableism, and others, can change attitudes, beliefs and behaviors that contribute to sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, we must empower, believe, and support victim survivors of sexual abuse, harassment, and assault.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Lancaster recognizes April 2024 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and recognizes the impact of sexual abuse, harassment, and assault in our community and stands alongside victim survivors, prevention educators, sexual assault counselors and therapists, and advocates to promote healthy relationships, equality, and respect.

ATTEST:


Bernard W. Harris Jr., City Clerk


Danene Sorace, Mayor