



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Proclamation

PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING APRIL 2026 AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), approximately 43.6% of women and 24.8% of men in the United States have experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetime, with women of color experiencing higher risk of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, members of the LGBTQ+ community face disproportionately high rates of sexual violence — with nearly half (47%) of transgender people estimated to experience sexual assault in their lifetime, and bisexual women experiencing intimate partner violence, rape, physical violence, or stalking at a rate of 61%, among the highest of any group; and

WHEREAS, more than half (51.1%) of female victims of sexual assault reported being raped by an intimate partner and 40.8% by an acquaintance; for male victims, more than half (52.4%) reported being raped by an acquaintance and 15.1% by a stranger, according to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey; and

WHEREAS, a culture of hostility toward women, minorities and members of the LGBTQ+ communities — amplified in recent years through national political rhetoric, online platforms, and the proliferation of misogynistic content in the “manosphere” — directly contributes to the normalization of sexual violence; research by leading extremism scholars confirms that hostile sexism and misogynistic attitudes are among the strongest predictors of support for political violence, and that dehumanizing rhetoric directed at women correlates with increased real-world harm; when powerful voices demean, objectify, or subordinate women, they erode the social norms that protect all people from sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, sexual assaults are known to have one of the highest recidivism rates among all crimes, due to the psychological etiology of a sexual offender/sexual offense; and

WHEREAS, victims of sexual assault are significantly more likely to suffer from depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, chemical dependencies, and even contemplate suicide; and

WHEREAS, sexually-based crimes occur far too frequently, go unreported or under reported far too often, and leave long-lasting psychological, physical, and emotional scars that victims have to manage for the rest of their lives; and

WHEREAS, Arapahoe County must share in the responsibility of supporting the survivors of sexually-based crimes and work with the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office and the 18th Judicial District to bring perpetrators of those crimes to justice, and;

WHEREAS, we believe our community will be stronger and all people, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnic background, age, faith, and ability, will be safer from sexually-based crimes when we better understand the nature of these crimes and understand it is everyone’s responsibility to educate our community about sexual violence and the importance of speaking out against harmful attitudes and rhetoric.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Arapahoe County proclaims the month of April 2026 as **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** and join criminal justice agencies, victim advocates, and community service providers across Arapahoe County in striving to create strong, connected communities that take care of one another and make decisions to ensure the safety and well-being of others.

Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully

Commissioner Jessica Campbell

Commissioner Leslie Summey
Chair of the Board

Commissioner Jeff Baker
Chair Pro Tem

Commissioner Rhonda Fields