



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Proclamation

A PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING APRIL 2025 AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, crimes of sexual violence have both individual and societal drivers and impacts and carry with them the particularly insidious element of broader subjugation and entitlement to another's body that everyone in society has a role in ending; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 2 women and 1 in 4 men in Colorado have experienced sexually violent crimes in their lifetime with women of color experiencing higher risk of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, members of the LGBTQ+ community are twice as likely to be victims of sexual violence with transgender individuals experiencing the highest rate of risk; and

WHEREAS, according to the US Bureau of Justice, persons with disabilities are sexually assaulted at rates that are more than twice the rate for persons without a disability; 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, during the month of March 2025, the Arapahoe County District Attorney Office referred 15 sexually-based crimes for felony prosecution – one every two days; 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, in Arapahoe County alone, the DA's office has criminally charged 10 Habitual Sexual Offenders Against Children since January 1, 2024; 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, 1 in 7 women and 1 in 17 men have sought a new job assignment, changed jobs, or quit a job because of sexual harassment and assault; 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.

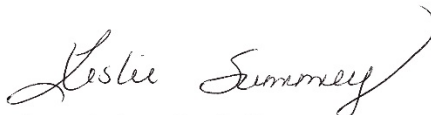
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Arapahoe County proclaims the month of April 2025 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and join criminal justice agencies, victim advocates, and community service providers across Arapahoe County in striving to create strong, connected communities 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