

*Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the  
County of Monterey, State of California*

**Resolution No.**

Adopt Resolution designating the month of April 2019 \_\_\_\_\_ )  
as “**Sexual Assault Awareness Month**” in Monterey County.....)

**WHEREAS**, the Monterey County Health Department shares a critical concern for victims of sexual violence and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018 Monterey County provided a total of 106 forensic exams related to sexual assault and abuse and the Monterey Rape Crisis Center provided 860 survivors 1,053 crisis intervention services in-person and over the phone, and 2,811 individual counseling sessions; and accompanied survivors to 106 forensic exams and 272 law enforcement interviews; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018 the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office received 315 cases regarding sexual offenses and the Victims of Crime Unit provided 13,744 mandated services to 532 victims of sexual assault; and

**WHEREAS**, current estimates suggest as few as one in five sexual assaults will be reported to law enforcement and less than three percent will result in the conviction and incarceration of the perpetrator; and

**WHEREAS**, research documents that victims are more likely to disclose their sexual assault to a friend or family member, when these loved ones respond with doubt, shame, or blame, victims suffer additional negative effects on their physical and psychological well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, the first Wednesday of April is recognized as “**Start by Believing Day**”, a public awareness campaign created by End Violence Against Women International, is designed to improve the responses of friends, family members, and community professionals to believe victims and encourage them to seek access to supportive resources and engage the criminal justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, April 24, 2019, is recognized as “Denim Day”, to encourage public awareness of sexual assault, community members are encouraged to wear denim as a global response to the 1998 Italian Supreme Court decision to overturn a rape conviction because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans she must have helped her rapist remove her jeans, thereby implying consent; wearing jeans on this day is a symbol of protest against harmful attitudes regarding sexual violence.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors proclaim that they support the Start by Believing public awareness campaign and do hereby declare the first Wednesday of April each year to be **Start by Believing Day** throughout the County of Monterey, California.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** upon motion of Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ and carried this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019 by the following vote,

to-wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original resolution of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof Minute Book.\_\_\_\_ for the meeting on \_\_\_\_\_.

Dated:

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Monterey, State of California

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy