The County of Centre

PROCLAMATION

Number 4 of 2019

WHEREAS, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a time to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it. The goal of the 2019 SAAM theme, “I ASK” is to empower everyone to put consent into practice.

WHEREAS, knowing how to seek, give and respond to declined consent is a concrete example of what it takes to engage in healthy relationships and end sexual harassment, abuse, and assault; and

WHEREAS, asking for consent is a healthy, normal and necessary part of everyday interactions and is about always choosing to respect the personal and emotional boundaries of others; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault is a serious and widespread problem. — Nearly 1 in 5 women in the United States have experienced rape or attempted rape some time in their lives, and every 98 seconds an American is sexually assaulted; and

WHEREAS, prevention is possible, and it’s happening. Centre Safe is already successfully combating the risk of sexual violence through conversations, educational programs, policies, and research-based tools that promote safety, respect, and equality; and

WHEREAS, prevention is everyone’s responsibility, and all of us can practice consent in our lives by asking for consent rather than assuming it and showing respect for others’ choices; and

WHEREAS, the community can honor Sexual Assault Awareness Month by creating and promoting safe environments, by modeling healthy attitudes and relationships, and by believing survivors and assisting them in finding resources.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in recognition of the work done by agencies and organizations that provide services to victims and honor survivors, the Centre County Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of April 2019 as “Sexual Assault Awareness” month and urge all citizens to play a role in the elimination of sexual violence in our community.

ADOPTED this 26th day of March 2019.

CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Michael Pipe, Chair

Mark Higgins, Vice-Chair

Steven G. Dershem

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray, Administrator