

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

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RESOLUTION No. _____ C. M. S.

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INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER Nancy J. Nadel

A Resolution Declaring April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month"

WHEREAS, the United States Government has declared April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month"; and

WHEREAS, women, children, and men are all victims of sexual assault and it is estimated that one in three women, one in four girls, one in six boys, and one in 10 men will be victims at least once in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, women, children, and men suffer multiple types of sexual violence, including, but not limited to, stranger rape, date rape, spousal rape, gang rape, serial rape, adult prostitution and trafficking, child sexual exploitation, pornography, ritual abuse, sexual harassment, incest, child sexual molestation, and stalking; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association has stated that a "woman is raped every 46 seconds in the United States" and that sexual assault is a "silent epidemic"; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have identified sexual assault as a significant, costly and preventable health issue; and

WHEREAS, the importance of these issues is underlined by statistics that indicate that there were 856 sexual assaults reported in 2003 in the City of Oakland; and that the Federal Bureau of Investigations estimates that only one in nine women who are sexually assaulted report the crime; and

WHEREAS, to one person, organization, agency or community can eliminate sexual assault on their own – we must work together to educate our entire population about what can be done to prevent sexual assault, support survivors and their significant others, and increase support for agencies providing services to survivors; and

WHEREAS, Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR) has led the way in Oakland in addressing sexual assault by providing 24-hour hotline services to survivors and their significant others, responding to emergency calls, offering support and comfort to those impacted by sexual assault during medical exams, criminal proceedings, and empowering those impacted by sexual assault to chart their own course for healing; and

WHEREAS, with leadership, dedication and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing incidents of this outrageous crime against citizens living in the City of Oakland, preventing some attacks through increased awareness and holding perpetrators who commit sexual violence responsible for their actions; and

WHEREAS, staff and volunteers of sexual assault programs in Oakland work year round to encourage every person in the City of Oakland to speak out against sexual violence and to support survivors by providing education and survivor empowerment information to schools, churches, civic organizations, as well as medical, mental health, law enforcement, education, and criminal justice personnel regarding sexual assault issues; and

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WHEREAS, BAWAR has set an important example of how forging collaborative relationships between agencies and organizations serves to improve the quality of service for those most profoundly and directly impacted by sexual violence, thus setting an important example for how the rest of the community might work together to speak out and find solutions to sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, BAWAR requests public support and assistance as it continues its efforts to bring real hope for freeing The City of Oakland from the tragedy of sexual violence to create a future where all women, men and children can live free from violence and exploitation; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Oakland City Council proclaims the month of April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in the City of Oakland and encourages its citizens to educate themselves about this important issue.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20__

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, QUAN, REID, WAN AND
PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE,

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST:

CEDA FLOYD
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California

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