

County of Buncombe

# Proclamation

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

*Whereas*, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in Buncombe County; and

*Whereas*, sexual violence affects people of every age, race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, socioeconomic background, religion and we recognize the added barriers and long-term impacts faced by survivors with historically excluded identities; and

*Whereas*, every day, survivors and communities across North Carolina suffer the pain and trauma of sexual assault; and

*Whereas*, this crime occurs far too frequently, goes unreported far too often, and leaves long lasting physical and emotional scars; and

*Whereas*, during National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we recommit ourselves to lifting the veil of secrecy and shame surrounding sexual violence, strengthening our support for survivors, and changing the culture and attitudes that allow sexual assault to proliferate; and

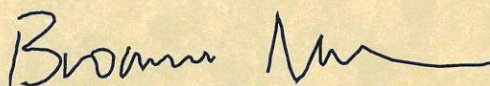
*Whereas*, we work towards a society that upholds every person's right to live free from sexual violence – where our institutions and communities are committed to preventing sexual assault and harassment, supporting survivors, holding those who cause harm accountable; and

*Whereas*, at every level we must work to provide necessary resources to survivors of every circumstance, including medical attention, mental health services, relocation and housing assistance, and advocacy during the criminal justice process; and

*Whereas*, Buncombe County communities can come together to increase awareness about sexual violence, decrease its frequency, and heal lives;

*Now, therefore*, be it resolved, that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the month of April 2022 as **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**.

*We, the undersigned*, proclaim that now is the time to take action as leaders in our community to create safe environments for all Buncombe County community members, including our youth and our educational institutions. We must work together to educate members of our community about sexual violence prevention, support survivors, and speak out against harmful attitudes and actions. We join advocates and communities across the country in playing an active role to prevent sexual violence. We publicly proclaim April to be **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** and recognize that each day of the year is an opportunity to create change for the future.



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Brownie Newman  
Chairman, Buncombe County Board of Commissioners