



## *Proclamation*

### **Sexual Assault Awareness Month April 2019**

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has public health implications for every community member of Jackson County; and

**WHEREAS**, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment impact our community as seen by the number of Jackson County survivors seeking assistance from their assaults and national statistics indicating that one in five women will have experienced sexual assault by the time they complete college (Fisher, Cullen, & Turner, 2000); and

**WHEREAS**, the county of Jackson is committed to educating our community about what can be done to prevent sexual assault and how to support survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, staff and volunteers of anti-violence programs in Jackson County encourage every person to speak out when witnessing acts of violence however small; and

**WHEREAS**, with leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual violence in Jackson County through prevention education, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions; and

**WHEREAS**, Jackson County strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts, including conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month throughout this county, and urges all the people of Jackson County to learn about sexual assault and commit themselves to the community goal of ensuring that everyone in Jackson County can live their life free of sexual violence.

**ADOPTED** the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2019.

Attest:

By:

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Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board

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Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman