



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has a profound and lasting impact on every community member of Santa Rosa; and

**WHEREAS**, national research indicates that one in five women, and one in seventeen men, will be raped at some point in their lifetime. Nearly half of all women, and one in five men, will experience some form of sexual violence. Young people are at greatest risk of sexual violence, and youth aged 12-17 are 2.5 times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted; and

**WHEREAS**, we must work together to educate our community about sexual violence prevention, support survivors, and speak out against harmful attitudes and actions; and

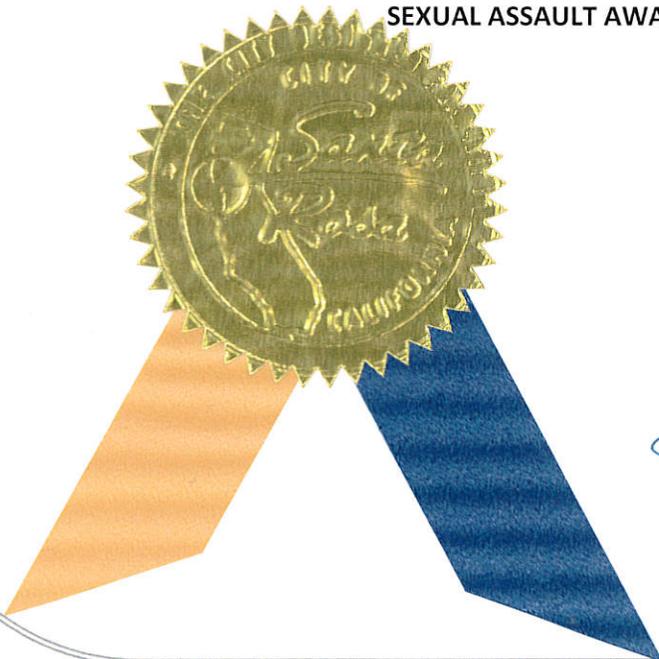
**WHEREAS**, with leadership, dedication and encouragement, there is evidence that we can be successful in preventing sexual violence in the City of Santa Rosa through increased education, awareness and community involvement; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Rosa strongly supports the efforts of Verity, and encourages every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts to end sexual violence. This would include having conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with crucial counseling and other support services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Rosa reaffirms its commitment to address the issues of rape and sexual violence by remembering victims, supporting survivors, holding perpetrators accountable for their actions, and challenging societal myths and behaviors that perpetuate sexual violence in our community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that, I, John Sawyer, Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of April in 2016 to be

### SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH



Mayor John Sawyer

April 12, 2016