

*Office of the Mayor
City of El Mirage*

Proclamation

In Support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month April 2025

WHEREAS nationally one in three women and one in four men will experience some form of sexual assault in their lifetime; and one in two transgender and nonbinary individuals will experience some form of sexual assault in their lifetime; and approximately 80% of sexual assaults are committed by someone who is known to the victim; and,

WHEREAS Sexual Assault Awareness Month draws attention to the fact that this crime occurs far too frequently, goes unreported far too often, and leaves long lasting physical and emotional scars; survivors have faced this violence wherever life happens — at work, at school, at home, and online which can upend people's jobs and contribute to mental health issues like depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder, and it can have devastating effects on the emotional and mental development of younger victims; and

WHEREAS A person in America is sexually assaulted every 68 seconds, and every nine minutes that victim is a child; about 66% of child rape victims are aged 13-17 and about 34% are under the age of 12.

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

WHEREAS we must work together to educate our community about what can be done to prevent sexual assault and how to support survivors; and

WHEREAS anyone can be a leader in preventing and ending sexual violence; as employers, educators, parents/caregivers, and friends, we all have an obligation to uphold the basic principle that every individual should be free from violence and fear; and

WHEREAS during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we recommit ourselves to lifting the veil of secrecy and shame surrounding sexual violence, expanding support for victims, and strengthening our response; and

WHEREAS we encourage every person to start conversations about what sexual violence is, take action to prevent it, take action to help survivors connect with services, and to speak out against harmful attitudes and actions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Alexis Hermosillo, Mayor of the City of El Mirage, do hereby proclaim the month of **April 2025** to be **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** and ask that our community work to keep our community members safe from this crime, and to stand together with survivors and victims of sexual assault.

Alexis A. Hermosillo, Mayor