

City of Durant **Proclamation**

It's time ... to speak up! **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

Whereas, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every community member of Durant, Oklahoma. Sexual assault is an intolerable violent crime with public health implications for every person in our community, either as a victim or survivor, as a loved one or as a community member; and

Whereas, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment impact our community as seen by statistics indicating that within the United States one (1) in five (5) women and one (1) in seventy-one (71) men will be raped at some point in their lives (Black et al, 2011). Child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that in the United States one (1) in six (6) boys and one (1) in four (4) girls will experience a sexual assault before the age 18 (Dube et al, 2005); and

Whereas, the voices of those who have been victims of sexual violence must be heard through public awareness and education activities. We must work together to educate our community about sexual violence prevention, supporting survivors, and speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions. With leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is evidence that we can be successful in preventing sexual violence in Durant, Oklahoma through increased education, awareness, and community involvement; and

Whereas, the City of Durant strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen, to actively engage in public and private efforts to prevent sexual violence. It's time for all of us to start conversations, take appropriate action and support one another to create a safer environment for all.

Now, Therefore, I, Jerry L. Tomlinson, Mayor of the City of Durant, join with advocates and communities across the country in playing an active role to prevent sexual violence. Along with the United States Government and State of Oklahoma, I do hereby proclaim the month of April as

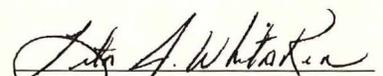
"Sexual Assault Awareness Month"

in the city of Durant and urge all citizens to duly note this occasion. Together we can all be a part of the solution to eliminate crimes of sexual violence.


Jerry L. Tomlinson, Mayor



Given under my hand and the
Seal of the City of Durant
This 2nd day of April 2013


Leta J. Whitaker, City Clerk