

RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2022

A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE APRIL 2022 AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF SHREVEPORT, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

COUNCILMEMBER: GRAYSON BOUCHER

WHEREAS, since 2001, National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) has coordinated the national Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign observed every April; and

WHEREAS, this year’s theme is ‘Building Safe Online Spaces Together; and

WHEREAS, for too long, harassment, cyberbullying and exploitation have been seen as inevitable behaviors online; and

WHEREAS, during this month-long campaign, NSVRC is making it clear that everyone can practice consent, intervene when we see harmful behaviors and promote safety and respect — both online and offline; and

WHEREAS, the goal of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to raise public awareness about sexual violence, educate communities on how to prevent it and bolster prevention efforts throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is an opportunity to educate about how each of us can prevent sexual harassment, assault and abuse, sexual harassment online doesn’t have to be inevitable; and

WHEREAS, 41 percent of Americans have been personally subjected to harassing behavior online, and an even larger share (66%) have witnessed these behaviors directed at others; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, 81% of women and 43% of men reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment and/or assault in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, one in five women in the United States experienced completed or attempted rape during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, nearly a quarter (24.8%) of men in the U.S. experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 734,630 people were raped (including threatened, attempted, or completed rape) in the U.S. in 2018; and

WHEREAS, preventing sexual violence means addressing the root causes, including beliefs about gender equity, forms of oppression (such as racism, transphobia, and ableism), and social systems that reinforce power over others.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Shreveport, acting in due, regular, and legal session convened, that the City Council hereby recognizes April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

City Attorney’s Office