

Resolution

“Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2015”

WHEREAS, the Orange County Rape Crisis Center assisted over 600 survivors of sexual violence, their loved ones, and community professionals during 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Rape Crisis Center works with the county’s two school systems and other groups to provide students with age-appropriate information about violence prevention, reaching over 14,800 youth and adults each year; and

WHEREAS, the coordination of the Orange County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is bringing together members of law enforcement, the medical community, the legal system, and other community advocates to improve services for survivors of sexual assault who come forward; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 5 American women have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2010); and

WHEREAS, in the United States rape is the most costly crime to its survivors, totaling \$127 billion a year considering factors such as medical cost, lost earnings, pain, suffering, and lost quality of life (U.S. Department of Justice, 1996); and

WHEREAS, in the United States 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of sexual or physical violence committed by an intimate partner (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2010); and

WHEREAS, there are more than 15,000 sex offenders registered as living in North Carolina (Department of Justice, 2014)

WHEREAS, victim-blaming continues to be an enormous problem in instances of rape and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Rape Crisis Center, a non-profit agency that has served this community since 1974, is working to stop sexual violence and its impact through support, education, and advocacy;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I Lydia Lavelle, do hereby proclaim **the month of April 2015** as “**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH.**” I encourage all citizens to speak out against sexual violence and to support their local community’s efforts to prevent and respond to these appalling crimes.

This the 7th day of April 2015