

Proclamation



Pam Iorio, Mayor

WHEREAS, sexual assault continues to be a major social crisis in our society. According to RAINN (the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network), a woman is raped in the United States every two minutes; and

WHEREAS, these statistics also indicate that 1 in every 6 women will be a victim of rape in her lifetime and 1 in 33 men will be too; 15% of rape victims are under the age of 12; girls from the ages of 16-19 are four times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape or sexual assault; victims are 6 times more likely to suffer from Post-Traumatic Street Disorder and 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide; victims are also 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol, and 26 times more likely to abuse drugs; and

WHEREAS, every two minutes sexual violence rips through the community and causes destruction in more than just one life – not only is a woman's life changed forever by violence, but the effects touch the family and friends in her life with this violence negatively impacting the whole community; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2010, the Sexual Violence Task Force of Tampa Bay is hosting Take Back the Night, an awareness and education event for the Tampa Bay community sponsored by the Crisis Center, Men Stopping Violence Against Women, and other community organizations. This event will include an assembly of survivors of violence and supporters who are interested in building strength and awareness to eradicate this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Sexual Violence Task Force of Tampa Bay is an alliance of agencies and individuals committed to ending sexual violence with the following focus area: VOICE, to increase sexual violence awareness; OUTREACH to engage communities; IMPACT through education and collaboration; CHANGE laws and systems to advocate for victims' rights; and working to EMPOWER survivors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa recognizes the vital importance of designating a time devoted to increasing the general public's awareness and support of agencies providing services to victims/survivors of sexual assault and in preventing future sexual assaults, especially during the month of April which has been designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in communities across the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pam Iorio, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2010 as

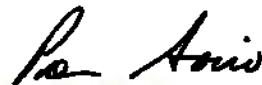
"SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all residents to join me in recognizing this important initiative geared toward creating a community free from sexual violence.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 2nd day of March, 2010.



City of
Tampa
Florida



Mayor