

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, DECLARING THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, A "START BY BELIEVING" CITY AND SUPPORTING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER IN THEIR EFFORTS TO LAUNCH A "START BY BELIEVING" PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TO SUPPORT THEIR NEEDS FOR JUSTICE AND HEALING.

- § 1. WHEREAS, the City of Norman shares a critical concern for victims of sexual violence and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, in 2014, the Norman Police Department received a total of 201 calls for service in reference to sexual assaults and the Women's Resource Center conducted 68 rape examinations and sexual assault services to 106 survivors; and
- § 3. WHEREAS, current estimates suggest no more than 20 percent of sexual assaults will be reported to law enforcement and less than 3 percent will result in the conviction and incarceration of the perpetrator; and
- § 4. WHEREAS, research documents that victims are far more likely to disclose their sexual assault to a friend or family member and when these loved ones respond with doubt, shame, or blame, victims suffer additional negative effects on their physical and psychological well-being; and
- § 5. WHEREAS, the "Start by Believing" public awareness campaign is designed to improve the responses of friends, family members, and community professionals, so they can help victims access supportive resources and engage the criminal justice system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

- § 6. That the City of Norman is hereby declared to be a "Start by Believing" City and in concert with the Norman Police Department and the Women's Resource Center, does hereby support the "Start by Believing" public awareness campaign.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of April, 2015.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

