

Alachua County Florida

A Proclamation

Declaring April 2021 “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” in Alachua County, Florida

- Whereas,** April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and is a time for communities to recognize the devastating effects of sexual assault and other forms of sexual abuse on the individual, their families and friends, and society as a whole; and
- Whereas,** statistics indicate that one in six women and one in thirty-three men will become victims of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault at some point in their lives; and
- Whereas,** despite the many lives impacted by sexual assault and abuse, only a small number of people who have these experiences will come forward to seek support and services due to a fear of being blamed or stigmatized by society; and
- Whereas,** due to this fear, it is important to recognize that free and confidential services are available in our community at the Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center, which has offices serving Alachua, Bradford, and Union counties, and provides 24-hour confidential counseling and information about the medical and legal options available to survivors; and
- Whereas,** due to the long history in our society of sexual assault survivors not being believed, Alachua County joins the City of Gainesville, the Gainesville Police Department, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, and area businesses and organizations in the Start by Believing Campaign. This campaign was created by End Violence Against Women International as an effort to send a message to survivors of sexual abuse that they will be believed and supported.

Now, therefore, through the authority vested in me by the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, I do hereby proclaim April, 2021 as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” in Alachua County, Florida.

Duly proclaimed this day of April 27th, A.D., 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Ken Cornell, Chair

ATTEST:

J.K. Irby, Clerk