

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, every two and one-half minutes someone in America is sexually assaulted; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Justice estimates that nearly 400,000 adult women and men are sexually assaulted each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, one in three girls and one in seven boys are sexually assaulted before the age of eighteen; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Office on Women Sexual Assault Response and Awareness Program (SARA) provided services to more than 700 adult and child survivors of sexual assault during Fiscal Year 2007; and

WHEREAS, the impact of sexual assault is not confined to any group of people, but crosses all gender, economic, age, racial, sexual orientation and social barriers; and

WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens experience unique impediments to reporting and accessing services for sexual assault, and the SARA Program is focusing efforts to improve and communicate the availability of services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender citizens; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence results in emotional trauma, physical harm, or death; and

WHEREAS, the Office on Women SARA Program is commemorating the survivors of sexual violence through a City-wide public awareness campaign during April.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2008 as:

“SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH”

in the City of Alexandria and reaffirm the commitment of the City to the reduction and eventual elimination of sexual violence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 8th day of April 2008.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE **MAYOR**
*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk