## PROCLAMATION

## DECLARING APRIL AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, sexual assault is an intolerable violent crime with public health implications for every person in Fort Bragg as a victim/survivor or as a family member, significant other, neighbor or co-worker of a victim/survivor; and

WHEREAS, no one person, organization, agency or community can eliminate sexual assault on their own—we must work together to educate our entire population about what can be done to prevent sexual assault, support victim/survivors and their significant others, and increase support for agencies providing services to victim/survivors; and

WHEREAS, Project Sanctuary provides 24-hour hotline services to victim/survivors and their significant others, responding to emergency calls, offering support and comfort to those impacted by sexual assault during medical exams, criminal proceedings, and empowering those impacted by sexual assault to chart their own course for healing; and

WHEREAS, ending sexual assault in Fort Bragg must include active public and private efforts to end sexual violence in collaboration with Project Sanctuary including dialogue about sexual violence, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with crucial counseling and other support services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, staff and volunteers of sexual assault programs in Fort Bragg work year round to encourage every person in Fort Bragg to end sexual violence and to support survivors by providing prevention education and survivor empowerment information to schools, churches, civic organizations, as well as medical, mental health, law enforcement, education, and criminal justice personnel regarding sexual assault issues.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, William V. Lee,** Mayor of the City of Fort Bragg, on behalf of the entire City Council join Project Sanctuary in the belief that all community members must be part of the solution to end sexual violence. Along with the United States Government and State of California, I do hereby proclaim April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month."

SIGNED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019

WILLIAM V. LEE, Mayor

ATTEST:

June Lemos, CMC, City Clerk

No. 06-2019

