



CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

Proclamation

Whereas, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) was first observed by the United States in April 2001 to raise awareness about sexual assault as well as ways to prevent sexual violence and support survivors; and

Whereas, each year during SAAM, we recommit to ending the outrage of sexual assault, supporting survivors, and building a culture that does not tolerate sexual violence; and

Whereas, SAAM is a time to draw attention to the prevalence of sexual assault and educate people about how to enhance community safety; and

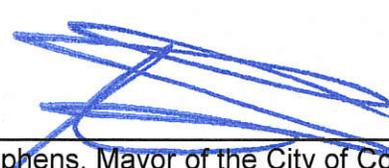
Whereas, sexual assault is a widespread problem in the United States; nearly one in five women and one in 67 men have been sexually assaulted at some time in their lives, and one in six boys and one in four girls will experience sexual assault before the age of 18; and

Whereas, sexual assault occurs in all communities and online; increasing virtual connection can result in online abuse and harassment; the trauma of online abuse is devastating for many survivors; and

Whereas, the SAAM 2022 campaign theme is "Building Safe Online Spaces Together;" the campaign calls on us to continue to create online spaces that are built on the foundational values of practicing consent, keeping children safe and supporting survivors; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN STEPHENS, Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2022 as **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH** in the City of Costa Mesa. I join advocates and communities across the country in preventing online abuse. Together, we can make a difference to build inclusive, safe, and respectful online spaces.

DATED this 5th day of April 2022.



John Stephens, Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa