



## *Proclamation*

WHEREAS, sexual assault affects all genders, ages, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, this experience can be devastating for not only the survivor, but also for the family and friends of the survivor; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence against the citizens of Alaska continues to increase at an alarming rate—many times above the national average, Child sexual assault in Alaska is almost six times the national average and almost 75% of Alaskans have experienced or know someone who has experienced domestic violence or sexual assault; and;

WHEREAS, it is critical to intensify public awareness of sexual assault, to educate people about the need for citizen involvement in efforts to reduce sexual violence, and to increase the support for agencies providing aid to all victims of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, due to the prevalence of these crimes, we must work together to prevent sexual violence. Advocates for Victims of Violence has many programs which fight sexual assault by striving to increase public awareness of lifelong pain and suffering caused by these crimes. The dedicated staff of AVV provides victims the support and advocacy needed to help cope with their trauma; and

WHEREAS, changing societal views through awareness, education and legislation and by having law enforcement, court systems, support agencies and communities hold perpetrators accountable for their actions will help make a society where all women, children and men can live free from violence and exploitation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ruth E. Knight, Mayor of the City of Valdez, Alaska, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2018 as

### **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

and urge all residents to learn more about the pervasiveness of sexual assault in Alaska and become involved in the fight against it, by supporting local activities and programs so that we as a collective group and community can help eliminate this heinous crime.

Dated this 3rd day of April 2018.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

ATTEST:

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Ruth E. Knight, Mayor

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Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk