

Proclamation

Office of the Mayor

Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Month is a time to draw attention to the prevalence of sexual assault and educate individuals and communities about how to prevent it; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault, at its core, is a devastating abuse of power — one that affects people of every age, race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, socioeconomic background, and religion; and

WHEREAS, according to recent national statistics, every 68 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted. One out of every six women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime. One out of every 10 rape victims is a male. The majority of victims are under the age of 30; and

WHEREAS, Sexual harassment, assault, and abuse happen in all communities and that includes online spaces. We are spending more and more of our lives online and unfortunately, with this increase in virtual connection comes an increase in online abuse and harassment; and

WHEREAS, Consent and boundaries can be violated online in a number of ways, and the trauma of online abuse is all too real for many survivors. But each of us has the power to change that. We can all make a difference to ensure that our online communities are safe and respectful for everyone; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Month's 2026 theme is "25 Years Stronger: Looking Back, Moving Forward". This 25th-anniversary milestone commemorates the history of the movement to end sexual violence while focusing on future prevention, healing, and action; and

WHEREAS, For the past 25 years, Peace Over Violence has run an inspiring and powerful opportunity to practice solidarity and support sexual assault victims with their "Denim Day" campaign on April 29, 2026 in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. The campaign began after a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans she must have helped the person who raped her remove her jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim. Peace Over Violence developed the Denim Day campaign in response to this case and the activism surrounding it.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Michael J. Ryan, Mayor of the City of Sunrise, Florida, together with the City Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 2026 as: **Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Month** and April 29, 2026 as **Denim Day** in the City of Sunrise and urge each resident and business in our community to support victims when they reach out and disclose abuse, stand up and speak out against Sexual Assault by changing the culture and attitudes that allow sexual assault to proliferate. Together, we must work toward a society that upholds every person's right to live free from sexual violence



Witness My Hand and Official Seal of
The City of Sunrise, Florida

Michael J. Ryan, Mayor