

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the City Commission

From: Lisa Agnor, City Manager

Date: March 18, 2016

Subject: Proclamation declaring the month of April as "Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month"

This item has been placed on the agenda at the request of the Women's Center of East Texas. A representative from this organization will be present at the meeting to accept the proclamation.

A copy of the proclamation is attached.

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts women, men and children of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds in this community; and
- WHEREAS,** rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment impacts our community, as shown by statistics indicating that one in five women and one in seventy-one men will be sexually assaulted at some point in their lives; and
- WHEREAS,** child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that one in six boys and one in four girls will experience a sexual assault before age 18; and
- WHEREAS,** we must work together to educate our community about sexual violence prevention and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions; and
- WHEREAS,** the **Women’s Center of East Texas** will join other victim service providers, criminal and juvenile justice agencies, health providers, and allied professionals in supporting survivors, speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions, and generating greater public awareness of the issues surrounding sexual assault; and
- WHEREAS,** Marshall, Texas strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts, including conversations about what sexual violence is; how to prevent it; how to help survivors connect with services; and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence.
- NOW THEREFORE,** joining with anti-sexual violence advocates and support service programs, in our state and across the nation, in the belief that all community members must be part of the solution to end sexual violence, the Marshall City Commission does hereby proclaim that the month of April, 2016 be observed as “*Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month*” in the City of Marshall, Texas.

Eric Neal, Chairman
Marshall, Texas City Commission