



**HONORARY PROCLAMATION  
DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021 AS  
"SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH"**

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in San Luis Obispo County; and

**WHEREAS**, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm our community, and statistics show that one in five women and one in 71 men will be raped 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 youth ages 12 to 17 are 2.5 times as likely to be victims of sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS**, our local student population is also at high-risk; nationally, one in four women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted during their time in college; and

**WHEREAS**, last year, RISE received 1,691 crisis calls from members of the community, and provided 4,832 days of emergency shelter; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of RISE clients seeking counseling for sexual assault related issues continues to increase every year, with a total of 2,334 hours of counseling provided at low or no-cost to community members across the County last year; and

**WHEREAS**, last year, RISE reached 2,699 people by Prevention Education Programming and trained 28 volunteers to serve as advocates on the RISE crisis line; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Arroyo Grande joins RISE and other advocates and communities across the country in taking action to prevent sexual violence, and acknowledges that each day of the year is an opportunity to create change for the future.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Caren Ray Russom, Mayor of the City of Arroyo Grande, do hereby proclaim April 2021 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month".

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Arroyo Grande to be affixed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.

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**CAREN RAY RUSSOM, MAYOR**



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