

**RESOLUTION**

**Proclaiming the month of April as Sexual Awareness Month in Cuyahoga County: Awareness = Change.**

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**WHEREAS, rape is the most under-reported crime in the United States. One in three women and one in six men will experience some sort of sexual violence before the age of 18. The impact of rape and sexual assault on the lives of individuals, families, and the community is traumatic, profound, and long-lasting.**

**WHEREAS, rape and sexual assault survivors have the right to be treated with dignity and respect by professionals in hospitals, law enforcement, and the justice system and to receive advocacy, support, compensation, assistance, and help with the physical, emotional, and financial impact of crime.**

**WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners acknowledges the pain and suffering as well as the courage of rape and sexual assault survivors, their families and witnesses as they journey along the path of healing.**

**WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners supports collaborative governmental and community efforts with the Cuyahoga County Sexual Assault Response Team, the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, the Cuyahoga County Witness/Victim Service Center, the Children Who Witness Violence Program, the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services, and the Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services, and other municipal and county social service organizations to prevent sexual violence and counter the damage inflicted by rape and sexual assault.**

**WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners recognizes the importance of services provided to victims of rape and sexual assault including hospital and justice system advocacy, crisis intervention, counseling, legal and social service referrals to crime victims through the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center and the Cuyahoga County Witness Victim Service Center.**

**WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners encourages timely and thorough investigations once a police report is made, comprehensive evidence collection in hospitals, the expansion of SANE Units (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners) throughout the County to improve the quality of forensic evidence collected that is admissible in court, and more prosecutions for the crimes of rape and sexual assault in order to decrease sexual violence and make the County a safer place to live.**

**WHEREAS, all Americans dare to dream of a nation where liberty and justice for all includes each and every person touched by rape and sexual assault.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, hereby proclaims April of 2008 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Cuyahoga County.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our individual and collective efforts reflect the ideal that every crime victim be afforded rights and services, fair treatment by the justice system and society; and be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Board be, and she is, hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Rick Werner, Deputy County Administrator/Health & Human Services.

**On Motion of Commissioner Dimora, seconded by Commissioner Hagan, the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.**

**Ayes: Dimora, Hagan, Jones.**

**Nays: None.**

**Resolution Adopted.**

**Jeanne M. Schmotzer,  
Clerk of the Board**

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