

# **Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation**

## **April 1, 2020**

**Whereas**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it. Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual harassment, assault, and abuse are widespread and impact every person in this community; and

**Whereas**, Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment impact our community. One (1) in three (3) women will have unwanted sexual experiences and at least one (1) in six (6) men will be exposed to unwanted sexual experiences including abuse and assault in their lifetime; and

**Whereas**, We must work together to educate our community about what can be done to prevent sexual assault and how to support survivors; and

**Whereas**, Staff and volunteers of violence prevention programs at Rural Resources Victim Services encourage every person to speak out when witnessing acts of violence however small; and

**Whereas**, Every citizen can play a role in preventing sexual assault, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center's 2020 Campaign, "I Ask", is built to promote the idea the consent is a normal and necessary part of sex and intends to empower all of us to put consent into practice.

**Whereas**, With leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual violence in Republic through prevention education, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions; and

**Whereas**, The City of Republic 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.

### **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

That I, Mayor Elbert Koontz, join anti-sexual violence advocates and support service programs in the belief that all community members must be part of the solution to end sexual violence. Along with the United States Government and State of Washington, I do hereby proclaim April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month!"