

# Proclamation

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WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month draws attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and is a violation of human rights and dignity; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional effects, sexual assault can lead to short and long-term physical and mental health problems including anxiety, chronic pain, eating disorders, depression, and sexually transmitted diseases or infections; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that Polk County Residents are aware of safety measures that can prevent sexual assaults and that victims are able to attain the support needed to overcome such a traumatic event; and

WHEREAS, with leadership, dedication, and community involvement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing instances of sexual assault in Polk County, through prevention education, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions; and

WHEREAS, Polk County has Victim Services such as Peace River Center Rape Recovery Program to help make a substantial difference in the awareness, reporting, and prevention of sexual assault within our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, we hereby proclaim April 2024, as:

## **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**



**POLK**  
C O U N T Y  
Board of County Commissioners