

Office of the Mayor

CITY OF MANITOWOC

Proclamation

WHEREAS, sexual violence is an international human rights issue, which heavily impacts our Manitowoc County community and demands our immediate attention; every individual has the right to live without the fear of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence is prevalent, experienced by victims of all ages, genders, sexual orientations; however due to the age and gender disparities, sexual violence is not only a prevalent form of gender-based violence but experienced at alarming rates within childhood and adolescence; and

WHEREAS, in the United States every 73 seconds, someone experiences an act of sexual violence, which is annually reflected in approximately 433,648 victimizations each year, which will largely go unreported; and

WHEREAS, annually, crime data reports from the Wisconsin Unified Crime reports, there were 32 reported victims of sexual assault in 2019; however, as sexual violence is one of the most underreported crimes, the victimization rates within Manitowoc County may be much higher than presented in official reports; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence causes immediate and long-term harm to not only victim-survivors, but significantly impacts their family, friends, neighbors, and community; and as a community we must recognize the need to educate about the harms of sexual violence and actively promote destigmatization of the guilt and shame victim-survivors experience as a result of their trauma; and

WHEREAS, Manitowoc County is a community that is not only demonstrating a public zero-tolerance policy against any and all forms of sexual violence but is actively involved in educational and preventative efforts against sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, Manitowoc County community leaders, businesses, and organizations have the responsibility to provide safe environments free from sexual violence and provide access to resources and supportive services for all victim-survivors of sexual violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. NICKELS, Mayor of the City of Manitowoc, do hereby proclaim the month of April as a

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

and recognize Wednesday, April 28th, 2021, as Denim Day; encouraging all citizens to join InCourage in providing support denouncing all forms of sexual violence and advocating for our community's victim-survivors of sexual assault.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Manitowoc to be affixed. Done at City Hall in the City of Manitowoc this 15th day of March, Twenty Twenty-One.

Justin M. Nickels, Mayor