

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has public health implications for every community member of the City of North Port; and rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment impact our community as seen by statistics indicating that 41.8% of women and 20.4% of men have been sexually assaulted and in 1 in 6 women will be raped in the state of Florida; 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 with leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual violence in North Port through prevention education, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions; and

**WHEREAS**, Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) provides free services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children in Sarasota and Desoto Counties, seeks to stop the crime of sexual violence through awareness and education, and encourages every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts, including conversations about sexual violence, 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as

## “Sexual Assault Awareness Month”

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, we have hereunto set our hands and Seal of the City of North Port, Florida, to be affixed this 4th day of April 2024.

### CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

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Alice White, Mayor

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Phil Stokes, Vice-Mayor

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Debbie McDowell, Commissioner



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Barbara Langdon, Commissioner

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Pete Emrich, Commissioner

**ATTEST**

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Heather Faust, City Clerk