

City of El Paso de Robles

PROCLAMATION

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

April 2011

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence remains an intolerable violent crime with public health implications for every person in **Paso Robles** as a survivor or as a family member, friend or loved one of a survivor; and

WHEREAS, Rape and sexual assault impacts women, children, and men of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds, any of whom can and do experience acquaintance rape, stranger rape, sexual assault by an intimate partner, gang rape, incest, stalking, serial rape, ritual abuse, sexual harassment, child sexual molestation, prostitution, and pornography; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is also meant to encourage public education and public discourse that leads to full public competence in speaking out against sexual violence, counteracting the reality that many in today's society remain disturbingly uninformed with respect to issues of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, The importance of these issues is underlined by statistics that indicate that there were 11,483 sex offenses in 2004; and that the Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that over 70% of rapes are never reported to police; and that one-in three women, one-in four-girls, one-in six boys, and one-in eleven men will be victims of sexual violence at least once in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, With leadership, dedication and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing incidents of this outrageous crime against citizens living in **Paso Robles**, preventing some attacks through increased awareness and holding perpetrators who commit sexual violence responsible for their actions; and

WHEREAS, the **City of Paso Robles** strongly supports the dedicated efforts of the **Sexual Assault Recovery & Prevention Center of San Luis Obispo County** to encourage every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts to decide to end sexual violence, including conversation about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with crucial counseling and other support services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Mayor of the City of Paso Robles, I, Duane Picanco, do hereby proclaim April, 2011, Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Paso Robles and April 30th as "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Day".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **City of Paso Robles** reaffirms its commitment to address the issues of rape and speak out against sexual violence by: remembering and supporting survivors, holding perpetrators responsible for committing sexual attacks, and challenging societal myths and behaviors that perpetrate sexual violence in our community.



*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, on the 19th day of April, 2011
I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the
City of Paso Robles to be affixed.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duane Picanco", is written over a horizontal line.

**Duane Picanco, Mayor
City of El Paso de Robles**