

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-035**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**COUNTY OF RAMSEY**  
**CITY OF NEW BRIGHTON**

**SUPPORTING “RAMSEY COUNTY: A START BY BELIEVING COMMUNITY” INITIATIVE**

**WHEREAS**, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men in the United States experience rape or attempted rape, at some point in their lives, and data from other sources report the rate for women is as high as 1 in 4; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a study by the University of Minnesota, the number of Minnesota women reporting a date-related sexual assault rises from 12 percent by the time they graduate from high school, 29 percent by age 23, to 33 percent by mid-life; and

**WHEREAS**, an analysis of the Minnesota Student Survey data by the University of Minnesota estimated 60 percent of teen first pregnancies in Minnesota are preceded by experiences of molestation, rape, or attempted rape; and

**WHEREAS**, 188 cases of child sexual abuse in Ramsey County were identified among reported cases of maltreatment in 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, current estimates suggest no more than 20 percent of sexual assaults will be reported to law enforcement and less than 3 percent will result in the conviction and incarceration of the perpetrator; and

**WHEREAS**, research documents that victims are far more likely to disclose their sexual assault to a friend or family member, and when these loved ones respond with disbelief, shame, or blame, victims suffer additional negative effects on their physical and psychological well-being and do not report their assault to law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, the national public awareness campaign “Start by Believing” is designed to improve the initial responses of friends, family members, and community professionals, including law enforcement and prosecutors, so they can help victims to access supportive resources and report their assaults; and

**WHEREAS**, Ramsey County has worked collaboratively across departments and with community partners for many years to prevent and respond to sexual violence in the community; and

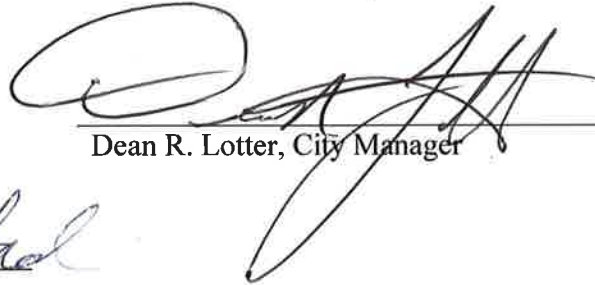
**WHEREAS**, public health and the criminal justice system have different roles and responsibilities, but are united in the goals to prevent and reduce sexual violence in our community, from children to vulnerable adults;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the New Brighton City Council, that the City will join with its neighboring municipalities in addressing the continuing problem of sexual violence

through its support of the Ramsey County: A Start by Believing Community Initiative and its goal for everyone to believe victims upon report.

Adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016 by the New Brighton City Council with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Valerie Johnson, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean R. Lotter, City Manager

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terri Haarstad, City Clerk