

CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-050

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A RAMSEY COUNTY INITIATIVE  
AS PART OF A NATIONAL PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO  
IMPROVE THE RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVIVORS**

**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**, 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; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of North St. Paul expresses its support to work collaboratively with Ramsey County and other community partners to prevent and respond to sexual violence in the community.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA** that the City dedicates itself to 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.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the City Council, in conjunction with Ramsey County and other community partners, will expand support for sexual violence survivors through training, education and outreach of staff and the community.

**ADOPTED** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

Motion by Councilmember Petersen  
Second by Councilmember Sonnek

Voting:   Aye:   Councilmember Furlong  
                          Councilmember Petersen  
                          Councilmember Walczak  
                          Councilmember Sonnek  
                          Mayor Kuehn  
          Nay:   None  
          Abstain: None  
          Absent: None



Michael R. Kuehn, Mayor

Attest:



Jason Ziemer, City Manager