

**PROCLAMATION  
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH  
APRIL 2014**

**WHEREAS**, Throughout the United States, April is recognized as **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** (SAAM). The purpose of SAAM is to coordinate and promote, on a nationwide level, an understanding about sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS**, **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** is intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts everyone. This year's campaign is dedicated to healthy sexuality and young people, "Your Voice - Our Future - Prevent Sexual Violence;" and

**WHEREAS**, It is also a time for communities to show their support of survivors of sexual violence, their families, advocates, and agencies such as **HAVEN** that provide services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year; and

**WHEREAS**, Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment impact our community as seen by statistics indicating that one in five women and one in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, Child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that one in six boys and one in four girls will experience a sexual assault before the age of 18. Young people experience heightened rates of sexual violence, and youth ages 12-17 were 2.5 times as likely to be victims of rape or sexual assault; and

**WHEREAS**, We must work together to educate our community about sexual violence prevention, supporting survivors, and speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions; and

**WHEREAS**, With leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is evidence that we can be successful in preventing sexual violence throughout our community as well as the entire country, through increased education, awareness, and community involvement; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Troy City Council takes this opportunity to proclaim **April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month** in the City of Troy, and strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, especially **HAVEN**, to actively engage in public and private efforts to prevent sexual violence; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That we invite all Troy residents to join advocates and communities across the country in playing an active role to prevent sexual violence and recognize the importance of education to create a safer environment for all.

Presented this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 2014.