

PROCLAMATION

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, conservative estimates of sexual assault prevalence suggest that 25% of women in the United States have experienced sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, approximately one-half of those cases involve alcohol consumption by the perpetrator, victim, or both; and

WHEREAS, individuals who are intoxicated and believe they have been ‘led on’ by a date are more likely to act out violently, which includes sexual assault, without thinking of the long-term consequences of their actions; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault survivors report using substances like alcohol trying to numb or escape the pain; and

WHEREAS, 67% of sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim; and

WHEREAS, an individual, when intoxicated, cannot legally consent to sexual activity; and

WHEREAS, perpetrators often use alcohol to excuse sexual assault perpetration; and

WHEREAS, alcohol is the most commonly used date-rape drug; and

WHEREAS, it is **NEVER** the victim’s fault.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DeWayne M. Hopkins, Mayor of the City of Muscatine, now join Trinity Muscatine New Horizons and *SafePath* Survivor Resources of Family Resources and do hereby proclaim that April 2015 is Sexual Assault and Alcohol Awareness Month. As the Mayor, I also call upon all citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals, schools and colleges in Muscatine to support efforts that will provide education and awareness about the high risk behaviors associated with alcohol use and the correlation between alcohol consumption and sexual assault. Through these efforts, together, we can provide Hope, Help and Healing for those in our community who are facing challenges with alcohol use and support our survivors of sexual assault.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name to be affixed this 2nd of April 2015.

DeWayne Hopkins, Mayor