



THE CITY OF FIRCREST

PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Rebuilding Hope Sexual Assault Center, incorporated in 1975 as Pierce County Rape Relief, is one of the longest continuously operated community sexual assault centers in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, Rape Awareness Week, established in 1979 by the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, expanded into Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the late 1990s, and has been nationally recognized each April since 2009; and

WHEREAS, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, almost half of all women and almost one in four men in the United States experience sexual assault, and at least half of our LGBTQIA2S+ community is sexually assaulted, and at least one in four girls and as many as one in six boys are sexually abused before the age of eighteen; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness around the prevalence of sexual violence has improved our communities' response to sexual assault and abuse, but intersecting forms of oppression continue to contribute to victimization; and

WHEREAS, continued efforts to increase awareness about how sexual violence impacts individuals, institutions, and communities are critical to dismantling the myths, beliefs, behaviors, and systems that promote sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, partnerships with local governments, philanthropists, and community-based organizations have supported Rebuilding Hope's delivery of 24/7 victim-survivor advocacy, trauma-focused therapy services, and prevention education curricula to thousands of youth and adults to recognize the signs of unhealthy behaviors and relationships, build skills for healthy boundaries and communication, and stop sexual violence before it occurs; and

WHEREAS, for more than 50 years, Rebuilding Hope has served as Pierce County's designated sexual assault center, remaining committed to its mission to provide support, promote healing, and work collaboratively to end sexual violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS of the City of Fircrest, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** in the City of Fircrest, Washington, and encourage residents to seek information, education, and support related to sexual assault and abuse.

Passed this 14th day of April 2026



Nikki Bufford, Mayor

