SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) aims to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities about how to prevent it.

Whereas, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in Polk County; and

Whereas, every day, women, men, and children across North Carolina suffer the pain and trauma of sexual assault upon survivors and our Polk County communities; and

Whereas, this crime occurs far too frequently, goes unreported far too often, and leaves long lasting physical and emotional scars; and

Whereas, during National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we recommit ourselves to lifting the veil of secrecy and shame surrounding sexual violence, expanding support for victims, and strengthening our response; and

Whereas, sexual violence affects individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances; and

Whereas, we as a community, share the responsibility for protecting each other from sexual assault, supporting victims when it does occur, and bringing perpetrators to justice; and

Whereas, at every level we must work to provide necessary resources to victims of every circumstance, including medical attention, 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter counseling, relocation and housing assistance, and advocacy during the criminal justice process; and

Whereas, Polk County communities can come together to increase awareness about sexual violence, decrease its frequency, hold offenders accountable, support victims, and heal lives;

NOW, THERFORE, I, Myron Yoder, Board of Commissioner Chair, do hereby proclaim APRIL 2026 Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Polk County,
North Carolina and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of working together to educate members of our community about sexual violence prevention, support survivors, speak out against harmful attitudes and actions and strengthening the community in which we live.

Adopted this the 20th day of April, 2026.

Myron Yoder, Chairman

ATTEST: Kennedy Freeman,
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners