PROCLAMATION

By Mayor and Council - Township of North Brunswick

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the observance of "Denim Day" draw attention to the importance of addressing and preventing sexual violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment and sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment all have a negative impact on our community. Statistics indicate that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually assaulted before the age of 18. Sexual harassment is part of a continuum of violence in which damaging effects are felt throughout our culture; and

WHEREAS, we must work together to educate our community about what can be done to prevent sexual assault and how to support survivors; and

WHEREAS, staff and volunteers of anti-violence and prevention programs in Middlesex County including the Middlesex County Center for Empowerment and Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition encourage every person to speak out when witnessing acts of violence, however small, and to challenge the social constructs that continue to perpetuate a culture of violence; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Sex Crimes Officers Association, Middlesex County Sex Crimes Liaison Officers, Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office and the North Brunswick Police Department are dedicated to ensuring the effective investigation and prosecution of sex crimes in our community through interagency collaboration and training; and

WHEREAS, with leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual violence in North Brunswick Township through prevention education focused on increasing gender equality and bystander intervention, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions. With proper education on the matter and comprehensive prevention projects, sexual violence and it's unfair and traumatizing effects are preventable; and

WHEREAS, throughout the month of April, the Township of North Brunswick strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts, including conversations about what sexual violence is; how to prevent it; how to help survivors connect with services; and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence.

NOW THEREFORE, WE the Mayor and Council of the Township of North Brunswick, **Do Hereby Proclaim**, the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and designates April 30, 2025 as "Denim Day", joining advocates and support service programs in urging all community members to help end sexual violence.

Francis M. Womack III,

Mayor of North Brunswick Township

Amanda Guadagnino, Council President

Lisa Russo, Municipal Clerk April 21, 2025