



Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas:

Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in the Lima community; and

WHEREAS: Every 73 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted. 1 in 6 woman and 1 in 33 men report experiencing attempted or completed rape at some point in their life; and

WHEREAS: Women of color, immigrant women, LGBTQIA+ women, and disabled women are disproportionately affected by sexual violence; and

WHEREAS: Since the opening of the Child Advocacy Center of West Central Ohio in 2013 over 1,000 child victims of sexual violence have been assisted in our community. Child sexual abuse must be addressed as 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be victims of sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS: On college campuses, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 14 men are victims of sexual violence, with 90% going unreported; and

WHEREAS: The many programs of Crime Victim Services are dedicated to preventing sexual violence while supporting and assisting all victims of crime. In 2021, Crime Victim Services served over 770 survivors of sexual violence and over 5,000 victims total; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of Sexual Assault Awareness month is to bring the Lima community together to shed light and promote a movement of awareness, education and action. This problem is everyone's business. Let us end the silence and be reminded that every day is a chance to generate a revolution for the future of our community to bring an end to sexual violence.

NOW THEREFORE: I, Sharetta Smith, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio do hereby proclaim the month of April as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Lima, Ohio and ask all citizens join advocates and communities across the country in playing an active role to prevent sexual violence among youth and adults.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Lima, Ohio, this 6th day of April, 2022.

**SHARETTA SMITH, MAYOR
CITY OF LIMA, OHIO**

