



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: May 11, 2021

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, In Support Of Survivors Of Sexual Violence, Affirming The County Of Sonoma's Commitment To Making Our Community A Safe Haven Where Sexual Violence Will Not Be Tolerated, And Committing To Implementing Policies And Processes That Prevent Potential Perpetrators From Civic Duties And Public Service With the County Of Sonoma

Whereas, sexual violence is a public health issue directly impacting the lives of children, youth, and adults of all genders and cultures and poses serious emotional, social, and civic consequences for all in our community; and

Whereas, nationally one in five women will be raped at some point in their lifetime, and nearly half of all women will experience some form of sexual violence, and one in seventeen men will be raped at some point in their lifetime, and one in five men will experience some form of sexual violence; and

Whereas, studies have shown higher incidences in California, with more than 86 percent of women (compared to 81 percent nationally) and 53 percent of men (compared to 43 percent nationally) reporting having experienced some form of sexual coercion or violence in their lifetime; and

Whereas, studies have shown that the likelihood that a person suffers suicidal or depressive thoughts increases dramatically after sexual violence and manifests in survivors experiencing symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and contemplating or attempting suicide at alarming rates; and

Whereas, all institutions have a role—one that supports survivors and their healing and

builds a climate of accountability and culture free of sexual violence; and

Whereas, the Board of Supervisors strongly appreciates and supports all the organizations and services in Sonoma County that ensure victims have appropriate support such as legal and victim assistance, crisis support centers, shelters, counseling resources, and law enforcement, and encourages every resident to actively engage in public and private efforts to end sexual violence and to connect survivors with crucial services; and

Whereas, recent events in Sonoma County have punctuated the pervasiveness of sexual violence in our community; and

Whereas, the County encourages all of its residents and visitors to demonstrate mutual respect for all and pledge to support survivors of sexual violence and voice concerns in the face of knowledge of these acts against humanity.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved the Board stands with all survivors of sexual violence and condemns the actions of all perpetrators of sexual violence, and the Board affirms its commitment to making our community a safe haven where sexual violence in any form will not be tolerated; and

Be It Further Resolved that the County will not remain silent and will continue to provide safety net services and work collaboratively with community organizations on behalf of all survivors of sexual violence; and

Be It Further Resolved that the County will evaluate and implement policies and procedures to more thoroughly evaluate civic appointees and ensure that the County's employment policies and services ensure a safe and supportive work environment.

Supervisors:

Gorin:

Rabbitt:

Coursey:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.