Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

April - Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April 27, 2016 Wear Denim Day

Whereas, Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the observance of "Denim Day" are intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has public health implications for every community member of Middlesex County including lifelong mental health impact; and

Whereas, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment impact our community as seen by statistics indicating 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually assaulted before age 18; 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 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 and the Middlesex County Sex Crimes Liaison Officers in connection with the Middlesex County Prosecutors Office 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 Middlesex County through prevention, education focused on increasing gender equity and bystander intervention, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions; and

Whereas, throughout the month of **April 2016**, Middlesex County 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, be it resolved, that I, GERALD W. TAMBURRO, Mayor of the Township of Monroe, do hereby proclaim **April 2016** as **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH** and urge all citizens to **"wear denim"** on **Wednesday, April 27, 2016** in the Township of Monroe.

Dated: March 29, 2016

GERALD W. TAMBURRO, MAYOR