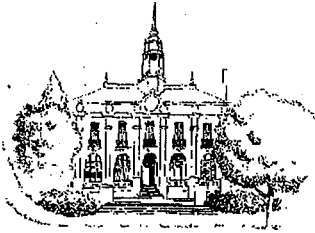


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Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7
2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704
PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177 kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us

REVISED #20
CONSENT CALENDAR
April 2, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
Subject: Support the American Association of University Women's Sexual Assault Awareness Month Activities and City Manager referral for Bay Area Women Against Rape Workshops

RECOMMENDATION

That the City supports the American Association of University Women's (AAUW) Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities (see attached) and the Denim Day event on April 24th. Also, Refer to the City Manager to see if it would be possible to hold "Bay Area Women Against Rape" workshops in Berkeley

BACKGROUND

According to the 2012 Berkeley Crime Report, reported rapes in the City of Berkeley nearly doubled from 20 in 2011 to 39 in 2012. These numbers do not include unverified or suspected/non-reported rapes. Many of these occurred in the vicinity of the UC Berkeley Campus. Overwhelmingly, the rapists were someone the victims knew. The report recommends that the City should respond to the drastic increase in reported rapes by implementing additional sexual assault awareness and prevention training programs.

The AAUW is supporting the Denim Day event as part of their Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities, which takes place on April 24th, to show solidarity to one particular woman whose rapist was acquitted after the judge ruled that because her jeans were so tight that she must have helped the man remove them therefore the sexual intercourse was consensual. The group is asking for individuals to show their support by wearing jeans on April 24th and donating money to help victims of sexual assault deal with the horrific aftereffects. Denim Day has been an annual event since 1999 and is spreading across the nation.

~~The Bay Area Women Against Rape in previous years has conducted workshops in Berkeley that were widely recognized as being powerful and effective at educating Berkeley residents.~~

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kriss Worthington 510-981-7170
Derek McDonald 510-502-1575

Attachment:

1. Ten Ways to Mark Sexual Assault Awareness Month

10 Ways to Mark Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April 01, 2013 April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and this year the campaign focuses on preventing child sexual abuse through talking about healthy sexuality. Given the allegations at places like Penn State; Notre Dame; Steubenville, Ohio; and Delhi, India, it's clear there is a need for more prevention efforts.

AAUW's research report *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School* also shows just how young sexual harassment and sexual violence begin. However, it doesn't just affect youth. In the United States, nearly 1 in 5 women surveyed said they had been raped or had experienced an attempted rape.

If these statistics trouble you, you can take action. Here are 10 ways you can prevent sexual violence and help survivors of all ages.

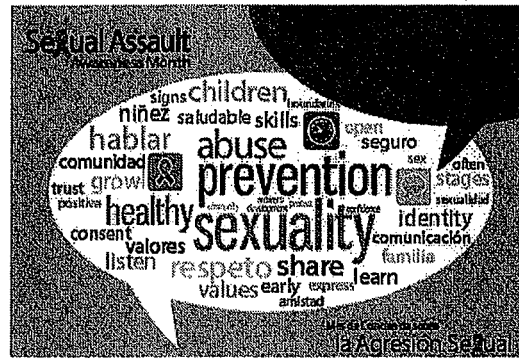


Image by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center

1. Believe and help survivors if they confide in you. Visit the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network website to find information that will help you help the survivor. The site also has information for friends and family of survivors.

2. Find help. If you are a survivor who isn't sure where to turn or how to get help, contact RAINN's phone or online hotlines and visit their website for information about recovery.

- **Are you in the military?** Call RAINN's Safe Helpline, which is specifically for you.
- **Are you male?** Visit 1in6, a website with resources designed specifically for you.

3. #TweetAboutIt. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center is hosting a discussion on Twitter at 2 p.m. EDT every Tuesday in April. They use the hashtag #TweetAboutIt. They also offer posters, Facebook cover images, and other tools.

4. Participate in International Day against Victim-Blaming. Held on April 3, this is an online day of action to speak out against victim-blaming and to support survivors. As the organizers said, "Survivors deserve our support, not our scrutiny." Use the hashtag #EndVictimBlaming and share this image on social media.

5. Wear jeans on April 24 as part of Denim Day in LA and USA to protest against the misconceptions that surround sexual assault. Order the Denim Day Tool Kit and raise awareness at your workplace, neighborhood, or community. AAUW staff members participate each year.

6. Advocate against military sexual assault, which affects an estimated 19,000 soldiers each year. Addressing this problem is one of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund's current priorities.

- Donate to LAF's case-support program, which is supporting three sets of former service members who say that they were raped or sexually assaulted by their co-workers. The plaintiffs are bravely suing the U.S. Department of Defense.
- Host a public screening of the Academy Award-nominated documentary *The Invisible War*, which features many of the LAF-supported plaintiffs.

7. Do something about campus sexual assault.

- AAUW and Students Active for Ending Rape created a Program in a Box with ideas for concrete action that can lead to concrete change.
- Download the Circle of 6 phone app, which was designed so that people can quickly send a "come and get me" message to their friends. The company also offers a new Healthy Relationships Toolkit, which addresses teen dating violence.
- Bring Men Can Stop Rape's great bystander campaign to your local campus.

8. Use the arts or join a march. Get involved in one of these popular initiatives:

- **The Clothesline Project:** People affected by violence decorate a shirt and hang it on a clothesline in public as testimony to the problem of sexual violence.
- **V-Day:** Hold a performance or a film screening to raise awareness about violence against women and girls and to raise money for local organizations that are working to end violence.
- **White Ribbon Campaign:** Wear a white ribbon and make a personal pledge to "never commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women and girls."
- **Take Back the Night:** Popular on college campuses, these marches take place after dark and make a statement that women have the right to be in public at night without the risk of sexual violence.

9. Apply for a grant to host a campus program. On a rolling basis, AAUW members can apply for LAF's Campus Outreach Grants and receive up to \$750 to hold an event about sexual assault on a local campus.

10. Apply for a grant for academic or community work. Some of the current and past AAUW fellowship and grant recipients have focused their work on sexual violence issues, and you can, too. This year, one of AAUW's Community Action Grantees is Safe Connections, which provides counseling and support services to women and teens in the St. Louis metropolitan area who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, or childhood sexual abuse.