



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: Sexual assault remains a pervasive issue, with incidents occurring every 68 seconds in the United States (per the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network); and

Whereas: Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, people living in poverty, LGBTQ+ individuals, non-binary people, elders, people with disabilities and others who have been historically oppressed are disproportionately affected by sexual violence in significant and complex ways; and

Whereas: According to the Bellevue Police Department, there were 23 sexual assault incidents reported to the agency in 2024; and

Whereas: However, rape remains one of the most underreported crimes. Survivors often face fear of disbelief or further trauma, while additional barriers such as language, immigration status, gender bias and systemic racism create further obstacles; and

Whereas: The negative impacts of sexual violence trauma on adults, youth and children include fear, concerns for safety and physical and mental health conditions, including symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, injury and missed work or school; and

Whereas: King County is home to many organizations that provide culturally and linguistically specific services for survivors of sexual assault. These services are critical in effectively responding to survivors' unique needs; and

Whereas: Preventing and addressing the trauma of sexual violence requires a united community effort. By ensuring supportive resources for all and challenging harmful attitudes and behaviors, we can create lasting change.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, join advocates and communities throughout King County in taking action to prevent sexual violence by standing with survivors and proclaiming April 2025 as:

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

in Bellevue, and we commit to a future where all members of our community - children, youth and adults - are safe and supported.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue