City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: sexual assault remains a pervasive issue, with incidents occurring every 68 seconds in the United States, according to 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 marginalized are disproportionately affected by sexual violence in significant and complex ways; and

Whereas: according to the Bellevue Police Department, there were 20 sexual assault incidents reported to the agency in 2025; and

Whereas: sexual assault remains one of the most underreported crimes. Survivors often face fear of disbelief, retaliation or further trauma, while barriers such as language access, immigration status, gender bias and systemic inequities can create additional obstacles to seeking support; and

Whereas: the impacts of sexual violence trauma on adults, youth and children include concerns for safety, physical injury and long-term mental and emotional health effects, including symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as missed work and school; and

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

Whereas: preventing and addressing sexual violence requires a united community effort. By ensuring accessible, survivor-centered resources and challenging harmful attitudes and behaviors, we can foster a safer and more supportive community for all.

Now, therefore, I, Mo Malakoutian, Mayor of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **April 2026** as

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

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

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Mo Malakoutian, Mayor
City of Bellevue