



## MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

### SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH APRIL 2021

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month — a time to draw attention to the prevalence of sexual assault and educate individuals and communities about how to prevent it. Sexual harassment, abuse, and assault are widespread problems. We know, in the United States alone, nearly one in five women and one in 67 men have been sexually assaulted at some time in their lives (Smith et al., 2017), and that one in six boys and one in four girls is sexually abused before the age of 18 (Dube et al., 2005). Alaska has the nation's highest rate of sexual assault at four times the national average, which equates to 161.6 per 100,000 Alaska residents (Hughes).

Sexual harassment, assault, and abuse happen in all communities — and that includes online spaces. We are spending more and more of our lives online — whether for work, school, or entertainment. Unfortunately, with this increase in virtual connection comes an increase in online abuse and harassment. Consent and boundaries can be violated online in a number of ways, and the trauma of online abuse is all too real for many survivors.

But each of us has the power to change that. We can all make a difference to ensure that our online communities are safe and respectful for everyone.

2021 marks the twentieth anniversary of SAAM, and the theme of this year's campaign is "We Can Build Safe Online Spaces." The campaign calls on us to create online spaces that are built on the foundational values of practicing consent, keeping kids safe, and supporting survivors.

Petersburg joins other advocates and communities across Alaska and the nation in supporting victims of Sexual Assault and preventing online abuse. Together, we can build safe online spaces now and into the future.

Therefore, I, Mark Jensen, Mayor of the Petersburg Borough, hereby proclaim April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and April 6th, 2021 as Wear Teal Tuesday.



**Proclaimed this 5th day of April, 2021**

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**Mark Jensen, Mayor**