Resolution recognizing and affirming April 2020 as “National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month” in the City and County of San Francisco in order to raise awareness, affirm support, and deter sexual violence.

WHEREAS, According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, between 2007 and 2017, approximately—3,018,600 women and 453,200 men were victims of rape and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services, an estimated 399,861 individuals, including victims under 18 years of age, in the United States experienced sexual violence in 2017; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2017 Child Maltreatment Report of the Department of Health and Human Services, in 2017, child protective services agencies substantiated 58,114 cases of sexual abuse of children under 18 years of age; and

WHEREAS, According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), an individual is sexually assaulted every 73 seconds in the United States, but for every 1,000 rapes committed in the United States, on average only 330 rapes are reported to law enforcement agencies, 59 reported rape cases lead to an arrest, 10 rape cases are referred for prosecution, 6 rape cases lead to a felony conviction, and 5 convicted rapists are sentenced to some form of incarceration; and

WHEREAS, The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) reports that the self-reported incidence of rape or sexual assault more than doubled from 1.4 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in 2017 to 2.7 in 2018; and
WHEREAS, NSVRC also reports that despite the increase in self-reports of rape and sexual assault, there was a decrease in reporting to police from 2017 to 2018 with forty-percent of rapes and sexual assaults being reported to police in 2017 and only twenty-five percent reported in 2018; and

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than half of all female rape victims reported being raped by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, Sexual violence may take many forms, including rape by an acquaintance, stranger, spouse or group, as well as incest, child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation, elder sexual abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation of disabled persons, commercial sex trafficking, sexual harassment, and stalking; and

WHEREAS, RAINN reports that 55% of sexual assaults occur at or near a victim’s home; and

WHEREAS, As reported by Rise, an organization that has created civil rights protections for more than 60 million survivors of sexual assault through its passage of state-by-state bills and established the Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights, current Statewide and local Shelter in Place orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic trap many sexual assault victims with their attackers; and

WHEREAS, Sexual assault does not discriminate on any basis and can affect any individual in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Studies have suggested that the rate at which American Indians and Alaska Natives experience sexual violence is significantly higher than for other populations in the United States; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, in addition to immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual assault can have numerous adverse
consequences for the victim, which may include post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, Advances in deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) technology have enabled law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute the perpetrators in tens of thousands of previously unsolved sexual assault cases; and

WHEREAS, National, State, territorial, and Tribal coalitions, community-based rape crisis centers, and other organizations across the United States are committed to increasing public awareness of sexual violence and eliminating sexual violence through prevention and education; and

WHEREAS, Important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, health professionals, public health workers, educators, first responders, and victim service providers;

WHEREAS, Thousands of volunteers and staff at rape crisis centers, State coalitions against sexual assault, and nonprofit organizations across the United States play an important role in making crisis hotlines and other services available to survivors of sexual assault;

WHEREAS, Senators Dianne Feinstein, (D-Calif.), Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) introduced a resolution recognizing April 2019 as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors is committed to the awareness, prevention, and deterrence of sexual violence affecting individuals in the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes April 2020 as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.
Resolution recognizing and affirming April 2020 as “National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month” in the City and County of San Francisco in order to raise awareness, affirm support, and deter sexual violence.

April 28, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/28/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board