

**PROCLAMATION BY THE WHEATLAND CITY COUNCIL DECLARING THE MONTH OF JULY 2021 AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF WHEATLAND**

*WHEREAS*, sexual assault is an intolerable violent crime with public health implications for every person as a victim/survivor or as a family member, significant other, neighbor or co-worker of a victim/survivor; and

*WHEREAS*, no one person, organization, agency or community can eliminate sexual assault on their own-we must work together to educate our entire population about what can be done to prevent sexual assault, support victim/survivors and their significant other, and increase support for agencies providing services to victim/survivors; and

*WHEREAS*, Casa de Esperanza has led the way in addressing sexual assault by providing 24-hour hotline services to victims/survivors and their significant others, responding to emergency calls, offering support and comfort to those impacted by sexual assault during medical exams, criminal proceedings, and empowering those impacted by sexual assault to chart their own course for healing; and

*WHEREAS*, ending sexual assault must include active public and private efforts to End Sexual Violence in collaboration with Casa de Esperanza including conversation about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with crucial counseling and other supportive services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence; and

*WHEREAS*, staff and volunteers of sexual assault programs work year-round to encourage every person to end sexual violence and to support survivors by providing prevention education and survivor empowerment information to schools, churches, civic organizations, as well as medical, mental health, law enforcement, education, and criminal justice personnel regarding sexual assault issues; and

*WHEREAS*, Casa de Esperanza has set an important example of how forging collaborative relationships between service agencies and organizations serves to improve the quality of service for those most profoundly and directly impacted by sexual violence, this setting an important example for how the rest of the community might work together to speak out and find solutions to sexual violence; and

*WHEREAS*, Casa de Esperanza request public support and assistance as it continues its efforts to bring real hope for freeing victims from the tragedy of sexual violence to create a future where all women, men and children can live free from violence and exploitation.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Wheatland City Council in recognition of the important work done by sexual assault programs, in cooperation with Casa de Esperanza, hereby proclaims in the month of July 2021 that **“No Means No.” Women and men working together can make a difference in the fight against sexual assault and gender violence in our community.**

Proclaimed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June 2021

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Rick West, Mayor