

# Office of the Mayor



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has public health implications for every community member of the City of Venice; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment impact our community as seen by statistics indicating that 41.8% of women and 20.4% of men have been sexually assaulted and in 1 in 6 women will be raped in the state of Florida; *and*

**WHEREAS**, We must work together to educate our community about what can be done to prevent sexual assault; and how to support survivors; *and*

**WHEREAS**, With leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual violence through prevention education, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) provides free services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children in Sarasota and Desoto Counties, seeks to stop the crime of sexual violence through awareness and education; *and*

**WHEREAS**, SPARCC encourages every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts, including conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address domestic violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nick Pachota, Mayor of the City of Venice, Florida, on behalf of the Venice City Council, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as

### **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

in the City of Venice and urge all Citizens of this City to observe this month of special importance by becoming aware of the tragedy of sexual assault, supporting those who are working toward its end, and participating in community efforts.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto  
set my hand and caused the Seal  
of the City of Venice to be affixed  
this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026.

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Nick Pachota, Mayor