

City of South Gate



From the Honorable
Mayor

PROCLAMATION

**Declaring
April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and
April 28, 2021, as Denim Day**

WHEREAS, for the past 22 years, the Peace Over Violence Organization has called attention to misconceptions and misinformation about rape and sexual assault, and the reality that many in today's society remain disturbingly uninformed with respect to issues of assault and forcible rape;

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) traces its history to the 1970s, when activists first began organizing on a national scale to reduce sexual assault and violence against women; advocates fought tirelessly to bring a topic once taboo for public discussion out of the shadows and shed light on the widespread problem of sexual assault;

WHEREAS, SAAM has been a campaign that aims to increase awareness about the causes and risk factors for sexual assault and aims to empower individuals to take steps to prevent it in their communities;

WHEREAS, Denim Day in Los Angeles was established to protest rape and attitudes that excuse it. The jean protest was organized in 1999 to help eliminate persistent harmful attitudes regarding why, where and how women are raped. Wearing jeans during SAAM became an international symbol of protest of harmful attitudes about rape in response to an Italian Supreme Court decision to overturn a rape conviction because the victim wore jeans. The justices reasoned that the victim must have helped her attacker remove her jeans, which they felt implied consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim;

WHEREAS, Denim Day takes a stand against rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment; community members, elected officials, businesses and students are encouraged to make a social statement with their fashion statement by wearing jeans on this day as a visible means of protest against and to prevent sexual violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed on this 20th day of April 2021, that **I, Al Rios, Mayor of the City of South Gate**, on behalf of the City Council and citizens, do hereby proclaim April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and April 28, 2021, as Denim Day. I encourage everyone to wear jeans on April 28th to help communicate the message that there is "no excuse and never an invitation to rape."

/s/

Mayor Al Rios