

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Beverly City MA
Monday, April 27 1pm – 2pm at Lawn Beverly City Hall
Beverly, MA, April 27, 2015

CONTACT: Diana Mancera
YWCA North Shore Rape Crisis Center
Office: 781-477-2313
Fax: 781-477-2314
dmancera@ywcawlawrence.org
www.ywcansrcc.org

On Monday, April 27, 2015 at 1:00pm on the lawn of Beverly City Hall, Mayor Michael P. Cahill, the YWCA North Shore Rape Crisis Center (YWCA NSRCC), and the Beverly Police Department will gather to recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month to call attention, raise awareness, expand support for victims, and strength our response to those who are victims and survivors of rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment in our community.

Nationwide, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives (Black et al., 2011). Child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that 1 in 6 boys and 1 in 4 girls will experience a sexual assault before the age 18 (Dube et al., 2005). In 2012 the City of Beverly reported 8 rapes meaning 1 in 500 people were raped.

“This reality can be overwhelming, but it’s important to remember that sexual assault can be prevented when we all play our part. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month; it’s also your chance to get involved. As a bystander, you can safely change the outcome — prevent an assault by stepping in when something doesn’t look right. You are watching out for someone’s brother, sister, child, or friend. Next time, it could be your loved one that needs help. It’s time ... to get involved and do what is right.”

Mayor Michael P. Cahill, the YWCA North Shore Rape Crisis Center (YWCA NSRCC), and the Beverly Police Department Department join together to commemorate April as Sexual Awareness Month to call attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in our community. Through this partnership, we continue to provide education, support, compassion, safety, and prevention initiatives to residents who are victims and survivors of rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm in our community

We invite all members of the community to join us in recognizing that there is no excuse for abuse and that as a community, we will speak up to offer safety to victims, ongoing education to the community, and do all we can to reduce the incidence of relational abuse and domestic violence.

Black, M. C., Breiding, M. J., Smith, S. G., Walters, M. L., Merrick, M. T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M. R. (2011). *National intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2010 summary report*. Retrieved from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.: http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/NISVS_Report2010-a.pdf

Dube, S. R., Anda, R. F., Whitfield, C.L., Brown, D. L., Felitti, V. J., Dong, M., & Giles, W. H. (2005). Long-term consequences of childhood sexual abuse by gender of victim. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 28, 430–438. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2005.01.015