

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the observance of “Denim Day” are intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has public health implications for every community member of Middlesex County, including lifelong mental health impact; and

**WHEREAS**, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment impact our community as seen by statistics indicating 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually assaulted before age 18 with many more experiencing other types of sexual violence in their adult life; and

**WHEREAS**, prevention is possible so we must work together to educate our community about what can be done to stop sexual violence while supporting survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, staff and volunteers of anti-violence and prevention programs in Middlesex County including the Middlesex County Center for Empowerment and Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition encourage every person to speak out when witnessing acts of violence, however small, and to challenge the social norms that continue to perpetuate a culture of violence; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Sex Crimes Officers Association and the Middlesex County Sex Crimes Liaison Officers in connection with the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office are dedicated to ensuring the effective investigation and prosecution of sex crimes in our community through interagency collaboration and training; and

**WHEREAS**, with leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual violence in Middlesex County through prevention education focused on increasing gender equity and bystander intervention, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the month of April 2016, Middlesex County strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of 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 sexual violence

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED** that I, Nicholas Polisenno, Mayor of the Borough of Spotswood, along with our Governing Body, do hereby proclaim April 2016 as **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH** and that we join anti-sexual violence advocates and support service programs in the belief that all community members must be part of the solution to end sexual violence and encourage the observation of Denim Day on Wednesday, April 27, 2016.

DATED: April 4, 2016

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Nicholas Polisenno  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Patricia DeStefano, RMC  
Municipal Clerk