



This Week from the Mayor



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April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

OVER THE PAST YEAR we have continued to see an increase in sexual assault allegations against men in high profile positions.

The courage shown by these women in coming forward, identifying their abusers and then working to end such abuse, continues to put a spotlight on sexual assault. An additional outcome of these reports is an increase in reports on the local level.

The demand for services at the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC), located in Renton, has jumped 19% in 2018 to 4,888 requests. Throughout King County, more than 7,300 adults and children received specialized assistance from organizations with programming for sexual assault victims in 2018.

A closer look at the numbers show that half of those requesting services were children under the age of 18. The risk is even higher for people of color, refugees, immigrants, LGBTQ, and other marginalized community members. One recent study found that 94% of Native American women in Seattle report they have been sexually assaulted.

Obviously, we still have a long way to go.

One way we can get there is to continue to give a voice and resources to the abused, something Renton has been doing for decades. KCSARC was founded as Renton Rape Line over 40 years ago and has worked tirelessly to give voice to victims, their families, and the community while creating change in beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors about violence; and instilling courage in people so they can speak out about sexual assault.

Another way to help is by getting other cities in our region to join with Renton and commit to ending sexual violence. I have worked for the past several years with KCSARC Executive Director Mary Ellen Stone to get every one of the cities comprising the Sound Cities Association to proclaim April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Last year 30 did and this year our aim is for all 38.

I was pleased that Executive Director Stone was at Monday's meeting to accept the proclamation proclaiming [April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Renton](#). In her remarks to council she thanked the council for the city's continued support and reminded everyone that the more people who come forward to report sexual assault, the more we can turn this around. To drive home her point she urged everyone to "be loud" and presented council with "Be Loud" buttons.

If you or someone you know is the victim of an assault, call 9-1-1 immediately. Also take advantage of the services offered by an agency like KCSARC and call their 24-hour resource number 888-99-VOICE (888-998-6423).

The more people who come forward and the more we can talk about it, the more we can stop this behavior.



Mary Ellen Stone, Executive Director of the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, accepts the proclamation proclaiming April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Renton from City Clerk Jason Seth.



Join us in demanding change: **BE LOUD!**

CHALLENGE norms by taking a stand in difficult conversations about sexual violence. Don't excuse victim-blaming.

ENVISION an optimistic future where survivors are not defined by their sexual assault.

ENGAGE with others by starting a conversation about your BE LOUD button. Share your photos with us using #BELOUD, and tagging @KCSARC, on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram.

www.kcsarc.org



Multicultural Festival receives PRSA honor



THE [RENTON MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL](#) has quickly become one of our city's most highly anticipated events. That it's become a showcase for our diverse community after just three years is a credit to the time and energy contributed by dozens of volunteers.



The city and those volunteers were recently awarded a Certificate of Excellence for the development and promotion of the festival by the Puget Sound Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). PRSA was impressed with the city's use of both traditional and non-traditional means of including the community in marketing the festival.

My thanks go to the members of the [Mayor's Inclusion Task Force](#) for their work in sponsoring the event and moving it from just an idea in a meeting room. When I formed the task force, I asked them to unite the community, celebrate Renton's cultural differences, and work to make Renton an inclusive city with equal opportunities for all residents. The Renton Multicultural Festival accomplishes all three.

The fourth annual festival is scheduled for September 13 and 14. I hope you can join us.

Residents receive magnets with a message

Take a look at your refrigerator; if it's anything like most, you have several photos and maybe a magnet or two stuck on the door or the side. Here at the city we've asked our residents to add one more item.

Over the past two editions of Renton CityNews we have provided residents in houses (February edition) and apartments and condos (April edition) with a magnet that includes dialing instructions for both emergency (9-1-1) and non-emergency (425-235-2121) situations in English and Spanish. It's our hope you keep this information nearby and use it as needed. If a situation should arise and you're not sure which number to call, use 9-1-1. Both numbers are routed to Valley Communications Center. Their operators will take your information and dispatch the required staff and equipment.



Feedback

Comments, questions or suggestions, or just want to share all the great things that are happening in the city, please [email](#) me. Thanks for reading. [Translate](#) | [Archive](#)