



**WHEREAS,** the city of McKinney, Texas, shares a critical concern for victims of sexual violence, and we along with organizations such as The Turning Point Rape Crisis Center desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and

**WHEREAS,** last year, the McKinney Police Department received a total of 69 reports of sexual assault and served the needs of victims by contacting each victim to provide information, personal advocacy, and accompaniment during the various phases of the case, emotional support or safety services, referrals for shelter or housing, and assistance with the Criminal and Civil justice systems; and

**WHEREAS,** current estimates suggest as few as 1 in 5 sexual assaults will be reported to law enforcement and less than 3 percent will result in the conviction and incarceration of the perpetrator; and

**WHEREAS,** research documents that victims are far more likely to disclose their sexual assault to a friend or family member, and when these loved ones respond with doubt, shame, or blame, victims suffer additional negative effects on their physical and psychological well-being; and

**WHEREAS,** the *Start by Believing* public awareness campaign by non-profit organization End Violence Against Women International, is designed to improve the responses of friends, family members, and community professionals, to help victims access supportive resources and engage the criminal justice system.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE C. FULLER, BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MCKINNEY, TEXAS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 6, 2022 AS**

## **START BY BELIEVING DAY**

**AND THE MONTH OF APRIL 2022 AS**

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH**

**IN MCKINNEY, TEXAS, WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL THIS DAY, APRIL 5, 2022.**

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GEORGE C. FULLER, Mayor

ATTEST:

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EMPRESS DRANE, City Secretary