



**NEWS RELEASE**

April 5, 2016  
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**Commissioners Adopt Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation**

The Adams County Commissioners today adopted a proclamation designating April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The proclamation was signed by 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney Dave Young and the county commissioners.

“Sexual assault is a serious issue in the criminal justice system,” Young said at the hearing. “I hope this proclamation will not only encourage victims of these crimes to report them so we can prosecute them, but also serve as a warning to potential offenders that we are going to prosecute you and hold you accountable for your actions.”

Young acknowledged the team of deputy district attorneys that prosecute sexual assaults for the office in Adams and Broomfield counties. He also acknowledged the office’s Victim Witness Services Unit, a leader in victim rights in Colorado.

“Our criminal justice system is the best in the world but it is not always fair to victims of crime and sexual assault,” Young said. “Too often, victims of sexual assault are not only victims of these crimes but victims of the criminal justice system as well. That is why it is so important that those of us in the criminal justice system do the best we can for victims of these crimes.”

“We are taking action as leaders in our community in creating environments that are safe and provide support for all Adams County citizens, “ The proclamation said. “We join criminal justice agencies, victim advocates and community service providers across Adams County in taking action to prevent sexual violence each day of the year and create change for the future.”

The commissioners acknowledged that sexual assault and harassment impacts all citizens in Adams County and that child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority in the community. Statistics show that 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men will be raped during their lifetimes. One in 6 boys and 1 in 4 girls will experience a sexual assault before the age of 18.

The event is one in a series of events in Adams County and throughout the state in conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

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