



# Proclamation

By the Mayor of Prattville, Alabama

*WHEREAS*, we must confront rape and other forms of sexual violence as a deplorable crime that impacts women, children, and men of all racial, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds; and

*WHEREAS*, it is vitally important that continued educational efforts to provide information about prevention and services for sexual assault be supported and enhanced; and

*WHEREAS*, it is critical to intensify public awareness of sexual assault, to educate people about the need for citizen involvement in efforts to reduce sexual violence, to increase support for agencies providing sexual assault services, and to increase awareness of the healing power of creative expression; and

*WHEREAS*, Sexual assault is considered to be the most underreported violent crimes in America, and criminal justice responses vary widely. We must ensure our police, prosecutors, and courts treat victims with the seriousness and respect they need and deserve; and

*WHEREAS*, We must do more to provide services that help victims recover from the trauma of sexual assault. And ultimately, we must prevent sexual assault before it happens; and

*WHEREAS*, each year the month of April provides an opportunity for crisis centers to renew their commitments to serve their communities. For this period, educational efforts intensify, ensuring that Alabamians are aware of the sexual assault services available in their area.

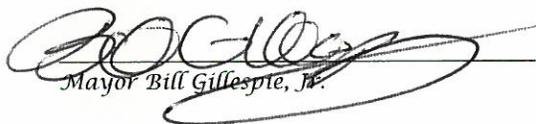
*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Bill Gillespie Jr., Mayor of the City of Prattville hereby proclaim the month of April 2012 as

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

in Prattville, Alabama and call upon all citizens to participate fully in the wide range of available events and activities.



Given Under My Hand and the Seal of the City of Prattville on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2012.

  
Mayor Bill Gillespie, Jr.