

Mayor Christian Price

Whereas, the City of Maricopa shares a critical concern for victims of sexual violence and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and

Whereas, in 2013 the City of Maricopa Police Department received a total of 52 reports of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, and the Pinal County Attorney's Office Family Advocacy Center served the needs of over 350 Pinal children and families through crisis interventions, forensic interviews and medical evaluations, victim advocacy and other medico-legal services; and

Whereas, research estimates as many as 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men will become the victims of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, yet most victims will not report the crime to law enforcement, and assailants who are not detected by authorities will perpetrate an average of 6 crimes; and

Whereas, research indicates victims are far more likely to disclose the sexual assault to a friend or family member, and when these loved ones respond with doubt, shame, or blame, victims suffer additional negative physical and psychological harm; and

Whereas, the Start by Believing awareness campaign seeks to improve the responses of friends, family members, and community professionals, so they can help victims to access supportive resources and to engage the criminal justice system.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christian Price, Mayor of the City of Maricopa, do hereby proclaim April 1st, 2014 as **START BY BELIEVING DAY** in the City of Maricopa and call upon the citizens of the City of Maricopa to observe this day by supporting the Start by Believing public awareness campaign.

Dated this 1st day of April, 2014

Christian Price, Mayor