

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 2015 the City of Maricopa Police Department received a total of 73 reports of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, and the Pinal County Attorney's Office Family Advocacy Center served the needs of over 745 Pinal children and families through crisis interventions, forensic interviews and medical evaluations, victim advocacy and other medico-legal services; and

Whereas, research has shown that two of the primary reasons victims of sexual assault do not report the crime are the embarrassment and stigma associated with the crime and the fear of not being believed and blamed for the attack; 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, End Violence Against Women International has campaign called "Start by Believing", confront the reality that many victims do not get the support they need they report the crime; and

Whereas, local governments and private business organizations around the state are adopting the "Start By Believing Campaign" and the City of Maricopa joins in this simple message of support for survivors of sexual assault.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christian Price, Mayor of the City of Maricopa, do hereby proclaim April 6, 2016 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 5th day of April, 2016

Christian Price, Mayor