

Alachua County Florida

A Proclamation

Declaring April as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” in Alachua County, Florida

Whereas, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is observed annually in April to raise public awareness about sexual abuse and to educate communities on prevention, support, and advocacy; and

Whereas, sexual assault, harassment, and abuse affect individuals of all ages, genders, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds, with profound and lasting impacts on survivors, their families, and the broader community; and

Whereas, it is essential to support survivors with compassion, dignity, and access to comprehensive services, including crisis counseling, medical care, and legal advocacy; and

Whereas, Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners at UF Health and North Florida HCA are at the heart of the local response when sexual assault happens and play a critical role in supporting survivors, promoting healing, and restoring control back to survivors; and

Whereas, prevention requires a collective effort to challenge harmful attitudes, promote respect and consent, and foster safe environments where all individuals are valued and protected; and

Whereas, Denim Day, observed on April 29, 2026, is a nationally recognized campaign that began in response to a court ruling that blamed a survivor’s clothing for an assault, and now serves as a powerful symbol of protest against victim-blaming and a call to stand in solidarity with survivors; and

Whereas, wearing denim on this day sends a clear message that there is no excuse for sexual violence and that survivors deserve to be heard, believed, and supported.

Now, therefore, through the authority vested in me by the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, I do hereby proclaim April, as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” in Alachua County, Florida.

Duly proclaimed this 28th day of April, A.D., 2026

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY FLORIDA

By: _____
Ken Cornell, Chair

ATTEST:

J.K. “Jess” Irby, Esq., Clerk