

## HONORARY PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2025 AS "NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH"

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual assault is widespread and impacts every person in Arroyo Grande; and

WHEREAS, LUMINA ALLIANCE provides essential, lifesaving services for survivors, their children, and families throughout San Luis Obispo County including Arroyo Grande; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault can result in physical injury, psychological trauma, and even death. The devastating consequences of sexual assault can cross generations and can last a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to focus on the individualized needs of sexual assault survivors; and

WHEREAS, the marginalization of certain groups in society, including undocumented individuals, transgender individuals, and those living with disabilities, increases their vulnerability to sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, LUMINA ALLIANCE continues to provide a safe environment to those affected by sexual assault with a 24-hr crisis line, advocacy, therapy, transitional and emergency housing, and prevention education, with the help of dedicated volunteers and professionals; and

WHEREAS, LUMINA ALLIANCE has received over two thousand calls to the crisis & information line, provided housing for 171 emergency shelter clients including 70 children, and provided more than four thousand two hundred hours of therapy; and

WHEREAS, LUMINA ALLIANCE serves as "A Bright Light During Dark Times" for survivors of sexual assault, illuminating a path towards safety and healing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arroyo Grande strongly supports the efforts of LUMINA ALLIANCE, how every segment of our society can work together to address sexual assault, and how to help survivors connect with services.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Caren Ray Russom, Mayor of the City of Arroyo Grande, do hereby declare, April 2025 as "National Sexual Assault Awareness Month" and recognize the important work done by domestic violence programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Arroyo Grande to be affixed this 8th day of April 2025.

CAREN RAY RUSSOM, MAYOR

