

PROCLAIMING APRIL 2009 AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, sexual assault affects every person in Chatham County, as a victim/survivor or as a family member, friend, neighbor or co-worker of a victim/survivor; and

WHEREAS, at least 173 community members from Chatham County sought services for sexual assault last year; and

WHEREAS, staff and volunteers of Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services and many community partner agencies are promoting prevention education by offering training to schools, churches, civic organizations and the community; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement, medical providers, mental health practitioners, prosecutors, probation and parole, victim advocates and human services agencies are collaborating through the Coalition for Family Peace to improve the community response to sexual assault and to provide safety and coordinated services to survivors while holding perpetrators accountable; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to increase public awareness of sexual assault and child sexual abuse, to educate people about the need for community involvement in efforts to reduce sexual violence, and to increase support for agencies providing sexual assault services; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Coalition for Family Peace request public support and assistance as they continue to work toward a society where all children, women and men can live in safety, free from violence and exploitation;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, do hereby proclaim April 2009, as "**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**" in Chatham County, and urge our citizens to support this observance.

Adopted this 6th day of April, 2009.



George Lucier, Chairman

Chatham County Board of Commissioners



Sandra B. Sublett, Clerk to the Board

Chatham County