

**Proclamation**  
**Recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the observance of “Denim Day” are intended to draw attention to the prevalence of sexual violence and its lasting mental, physical, and public health impacts on survivors and communities, including those in Middlesex County; and

**WHEREAS**, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment continue to affect individuals across our nation, as statistics indicate that every 68 seconds, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted, and every 9 minutes, the victim is a child; and

**WHEREAS**, raising awareness and promoting education are essential to preventing sexual violence, supporting survivors, and fostering a community that does not tolerate abuse in any form; and

**WHEREAS**, staff and volunteers of anti-violence and prevention programs in Middlesex County, including the Middlesex County Center for Empowerment and the Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition, work to challenge harmful social norms, encourage bystander intervention, and promote safe and respectful environments both in person and online; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Sex Crimes Officers Association and the Middlesex County Sex Crimes Liaison Officers, in partnership with the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office, remain dedicated to the effective investigation and prosecution of sex crimes through collaboration, training, and victim-centered approaches; and

**WHEREAS**, through continued leadership, education, and community engagement, there is strong evidence that sexual violence can be reduced by increasing awareness, promoting healthy relationships, advancing gender equity, encouraging bystander intervention, and holding offenders accountable; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that I, Mayor Jason F. Cilento, and the Dunellen Borough Council recognize April 2026 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and encourage all residents to support awareness efforts, stand with survivors, and help foster a safer community for all, and further encourage the observance of Denim Day on April 29, 2026.



Jason F. Cilento, Mayor  
Borough of Dunellen  
April 6, 2026