

**CITY OF BRIGHTON  
SAAM STATEMENT  
APRIL 1ST-30TH, 2022**

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This year our nation will be recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) APRIL 1st-30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Since 2001, Sexual Assault Awareness Month has raised awareness about sexual violence and how to prevent it. The movement began back in the 1970's. On April 1, 2001 the U.S. first observed Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Each year, communities across the country engage with this issue more directly by learning more about sexual violence, sharing important statistics, and stepping up to stop sexual assault.

This year SAAM is commemorated through ***Building Safe Online Spaces Together***. Sexual Assault Awareness Month is about more than awareness — the ultimate goal is prevention. Sexual harassment, assault, and abuse can happen anywhere, including in online spaces. For too long harassment, cyberbullying, and sexual abuse and exploitation have come to be expected as typical and unavoidable behaviors online. **Building Safe Online Spaces Together** is possible when we practice digital consent, intervene when we see harmful content and behaviors, and promote online communities that value respect, inclusion, and safety. The goal of the campaign is to empower all of us to put consent into practice.

Teal is the official color of SAAM. The teal ribbon is the symbol of sexual violence prevention.

The Brighton Police Department, as a certified You Have Options agency, remains committed to offering reporting options to victims of sexual assault while responding to sexual violence with a victim-centered, offender-focused approach. Our city demonstrates this year's SAAM theme ***I Ask*** and our continued recommitment to ending sexual violence in our community.

