

CITY OF BRIGHTON SAAM STATEMENT APRIL 1ST-30TH, 2026

This year our nation will recognize **Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)** throughout the month of April.

April 2026 marks the 25th anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, themed “**25 Years Stronger: Looking Back, Moving Forward.**” This milestone recognizes the strength and resilience of survivors, the progress made in supporting victims of sexual violence, and the continued work required to prevent sexual assault and support safe communities.

While Sexual Assault Awareness Month was first nationally recognized in **2001**, the movement to raise awareness and support survivors began decades earlier in the **1970s**, when advocates and survivors began organizing to bring attention to sexual violence and demand change. Over the past 25 years, communities across the country have strengthened prevention efforts, improved victim services, and expanded collaboration between advocates, healthcare professionals, law enforcement, and community leaders.

The **2026 theme, “25 Years Stronger: Looking Back, Moving Forward,”** highlights both reflection and action. It encourages communities to honor the progress made in supporting survivors while recommitting to prevention, education, and advocacy. By continuing to raise awareness, challenge harmful behaviors, and support those affected by sexual violence, we help build communities where safety, dignity, and respect are the standard for everyone.

Teal is the official color of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and the **teal ribbon** is the symbol of sexual violence prevention and survivor support.

The **Brighton Police Department** remains committed to offering reporting options to victims of sexual assault and responding to sexual violence with a **victim-centered, offender-focused approach**. Through education, advocacy, and collaboration with community partners, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting survivors and working toward a future free from sexual violence.

