



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2020

Joint statement on standing together on Denim Day

From Alderman Cavalier Johnson, Alderman Michael J. Murphy, Alderwoman Marina Dimitrijevic, Alderman Ashanti Hamilton, Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, Alderman Scott Spiker, Alderwoman Nikiya Dodd, Alderman Nik Kovac, Alderman Khalif J. Rainey, Alderman José G. Pérez, Alderwoman JoCasta Zamarripa, Alderwoman Chantia Lewis, Alderman Mark A. Borkowski, Alderman Robert J. Bauman and Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II.

Today is Denim Day, and we mark this day to remind the community that we stand in solidarity with the victims and survivors of sexual assault. Wearing jeans on Denim Day has become an international symbol of protest against the damaging attitudes surrounding sexual assault in our communities and in the judicial system, and we encourage residents to join us in this campaign.

In 1998, the Italian Supreme Court overruled a rape conviction on the grounds that the victim wore tight jeans and may have helped her attacker remove them, implying the attack on her was consensual sex. Outraged by the decision, women in the Italian Parliament wore jeans the next day, standing in solidarity with the victim and sparking a worldwide movement and discussion on sexual violence.

Domestic violence and sexual assault are often closely linked, and sadly, incidents of domestic violence have increased significantly during the stay home orders that have been put in place because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We stand united in supporting those victims, as well, and urge them to seek out help and resources that are listed below. We are reminded that Denim Day is a call to action, and that no community is immune to domestic violence and sexual violence, and that as a community we must work together to address the issues, support victims, and combat the misconceptions, silence, and shame that too often are associated with them.

As Council members and through the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (a body that many of us have served on, currently serve on and/or will serve on in the future), we will continue to protect victims and survivors of sexual violence and will hold perpetrators accountable.

If you or someone you know has experienced domestic violence or sexual assault, these agencies can help:

-More-

24-Hour Crisis Help Lines

IMPACT	211
Safe Path (Questions about Youth Sexual Violence)	414-271-9523
Sexual Assault Treatment Center	414-219-5555
The Asha Project	414-252-0075
The UMOS Latina Resource Center	414-389-6510
The Hmong American Women's Association	414-930-9352
<u>Shelters</u>	
Sojourner Family Peace Center	414-933-2722
Milwaukee Women's Center Refuge	414-671-6140
Milwaukee Rescue Mission	414-344-2211

For a complete list of available resources and more information about sexual violence prevention, please visit the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's website at https://city.milwaukee.gov/health/staysafe/health/mCDVSA#.XMB_WrdKgdU