

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

CITY OF BROOKINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

WHEREAS, sexual assault is a public health issue that harms individuals, families, and communities, often across generations; and

WHEREAS, the most recent statistics (2023) reported by the South Dakota Department of Health rank South Dakota tenth in the nation for the number of victims per 100,000 people; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault can happen to anyone, but certain populations are at greater risk, including those affected by violence, substance abuse, poverty, and social disconnection, with 40% of sexual violence victims in South Dakota being those of Native descent; and

WHEREAS, many incidents of sexual assault go unreported due to fear, stigma, lack of resources, or concern about not being believed, emphasizing the importance of community education and prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brookings and Margo's Place is committed to ensuring that those impacted by sexual assault receive responsive and trauma-informed services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Oepke G. Niemeyer, Mayor of the City of Brookings, do hereby proclaim April 2026, as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have placed the Seal of the City of Brookings, State of South Dakota, this 14th day of April 2026.

Oepke G. Niemeyer, Mayor