RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held virtually during the COVID-19 global pandemic, 517.853.4000, on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson,

Opsommer, Wisinski

ABSENT: Trustee Sundland

The following resolution was offered by Clerk Guthrie and supported by Trustee Jackson

WHEREAS, nationally one in three women and one in four men will experience some form of sexual assault in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, due to the unprecedented challenges presented by the COVID–19 pandemic, including mandatory stay-at-home orders, the needs of sexual assault victims have become even more complex and challenging;

WHEREAS, according to a March 2020 survey by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence of more than 600 rape crisis programs, 89 percent of those programs need emergency stimulus funding to respond to requests from survivors for support and emergency assistance;

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month draws attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has implications for every community member; and

WHEREAS, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual violence through prevention education, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions; and

WHEREAS, We must work together to educate our community about what can be done to prevent sexual assault and how to support survivors; and

WHEREAS, Anyone can be a leader in preventing and ending sexual violence. As employers, educators, parents, and friends, we all have an obligation to uphold the basic principle that every individual should be free from violence and fear; and

WHEREAS, the Meridian Township Police Department has a specially trained investigator that conducts and coordinates all of our sexual assault reports. The department also conduct annual training for the public on the recognition of behaviors in children that are victims of abuse and sexual assault: and

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WHEREAS, Meridian Township has specifically establish in the Township's Personnel Policy Manual *Workplace Expectations*, that any type of sexual or other unlawful harassment or discrimination by employees of the Township will not be tolerated and should be reported immediately to the Human Resources Department; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2021 theme is "We Can Build Safe Online Spaces," Sexual harassment, assault, and abuse can happen anywhere, including in online spaces. As we connect online, we can learn how to practice digital consent, intervene when we see harmful content or behaviors, and ensure that online spaces — whether they be workspaces, classrooms, social media platforms, or otherwise — are respectful and safe.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Meridian Township Board, on behalf of all residents of Meridian Township, does hereby proclaim the month of April 2021, as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Meridian Township, to keep our community members safe from this crime and to stand with survivors and victims of sexual assault.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie,

Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Jackson

NAYS: None

The resolution passed 6-0

STATE OF MICHIGAN) ss. COUNTY OF INGHAM)



I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, **DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of proceedings taken by the Township-Board at a regular meeting held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

Deborah Guthrie, Clerk Charter Township of Meridian