## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month calls attention to the fact that sexual harassment, assault, and abuse are widespread and impact every person in this community; and

WHEREAS, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment impacts our community, as shown by statistics indicating that one in five women and one in thirty-three men will be sexually assaulted at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that one in four boys and one in three girls will experience a sexual assault before age 18; and

WHEREAS, one in five women and one in sixteen men are sexually assaulted during their time in college: and

WHEREAS, we must work together to educate our community about sexual assault prevention, supporting survivors, and speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions; and

**WHEREAS,** with leadership and dedication, we can be successful in preventing sexual assault in East Texas by increasing education, awareness, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, Panola County strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts, including conversations about what sexual violence is; how to prevent it; how to help survivors connect with services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Commissioners' Court of Panola County, Texas joins advocates and communities across the nation in playing an active role to end sexual assault. Along with the United States Government and State of Texas, we do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2022 as

## SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Dated this 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022

Billy Alexander / Commissioner, Precinct 1

Craig M. Lawless Commissioner, Precinct 3

2 ATTEST: Bobbie Davis, County Clerk mmmmm

David L. Anderson, County Judge

David A. Čole Commissioner, Precinct 2

Dale LaGrone Commissioner, Precinct 4