

Proclamation

**Recognizing
TESSA'S LAUNCH OF "IT'S NOT OKAY" PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
May 22, 2019**

WHEREAS, TESSA was established as Battered Women's Services in 1977, a collective community effort to address the number of calls that law enforcement were receiving from women reporting spousal abuse; and

WHEREAS, TESSA has evolved into a multi-faceted agency that provides holistic, seamless services to all victims of domestic and sexual violence within our community; and

WHEREAS, TESSA serves as many as 15,000 victims of domestic and sexual violence each year. TESSA provides a confidential Safehouse, counseling, a children's programs, a 24/7 hotline, housing, legal services, and other community and youth outreach initiatives; and

WHEREAS, TESSA hereby announces that May 22, 2019 will be the official launch of the IT'S NOT OKAY public awareness campaign in an effort to curb the high rates of domestic and sexual violence plaguing the Pikes Peak region; and

WHEREAS, the campaign is the result of the work on the No Excuse for Abuse Task Force, which boasts Mayor John Suthers as Honorary Chair. The Task Force has involved approximately 80 individuals representing more than 50 local organizations, and

WHEREAS, the campaign has a variety of facets including public service announcements, social media, and printed materials. The public service announcement includes a variety of local Coloradoans addressing various forms of abuse and reiterating the message "it's not okay", and that if they abuse, they can get help; and

WHEREAS, the campaign will roll out additional features throughout the year, including a youth-focused pilot program with Harrison School District 2, an elite training team to provide presentations throughout the community, and a workplace campaign.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard Skorman, President of the Colorado Springs City Council, do hereby recognize May 22nd, 2019 as

TESSA'S LAUNCH OF "IT'S NOT OKAY" PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

in Colorado Springs and proclaims its sincere gratitude to TESSA 's efforts to initiate a campaign that says it's never okay for someone to be abusive.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Colorado Springs to be affixed this 29th day of April, 2019.


Richard Skorman, President