

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 16

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING APRIL 12, 2016 AS START BY BELIEVING
DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME**

Whereas, the City of Colorado Springs shares a critical concern for victims of sexual violence and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and

Whereas, in 2015 Memorial Hospital: University of Colorado Health received a total of 673 reports of rape or attempted rape, and TESSA served the needs of victims during 221 crisis interventions, law enforcement interviews, or other proceedings; and

Whereas, current estimates suggest no more than 20 percent of sexual assaults will be reported to law enforcement and less than 3 percent will result in the conviction and incarceration of the perpetrator; and

Whereas, research documents that victims are far more likely to disclose their sexual assault to a friend or family member, and when these loved ones respond with doubt, shame, or blame, victims suffer additional negative effects on their physical and psychological well-being; and

Whereas, the “Start by Believing” public awareness campaign (a program of End Violence Against Women International) is designed to improve the responses of friends, family members, and community professionals, so they can help victims to access supportive resources and engage the criminal justice system.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
COLORADO SPRINGS:**

The Mayor and City Council of the Colorado Springs supports the Start by Believing public awareness campaign and do hereby declare Tuesday, April 12, 2016 to be **Start by Believing Day** throughout the City of Colorado Springs

DATED at Colorado Springs, Colorado, this _____ day of _____, 2016.

Council President

ATTEST:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk