



PROCLAMATION

presented for

Denim Day Long Beach

April 27, 2005

Whereas, The United States Government has declared April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month," and the Long Beach Police Chief's Women's Advisory Group and the Sexual Assault Crisis Agency will recognize April 27, 2005, as Denim Day Long Beach; and

Whereas, both events are intended to draw attention to the fact that rape and sexual assault remain serious issues in our society; and

Whereas, in 2004 throughout the State of California 4,373 forcible rapes were reported, of those 129 rapes were reported throughout the City of Long Beach; and

Whereas, the importance of this issue is underlined by statistics indicating that approximately 1-in-3 women are raped in adulthood and the sexual assault victimization rate for youths under 18 has been documented at 2.7 times higher than adults; and

Whereas, elimination of sexual assault must be achieved through cooperation of individuals, organizations, and communities; Denim Day Long Beach provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about sexual assault and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to sexual assault survivors; and

Whereas, with proper education on the matter, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing incidents of this alarming and psychologically damaging crime;

Now, Therefore, I, Beverly O'Neill, Mayor of the City of Long Beach, on behalf of the Long Beach City Council, do hereby declare April 27, 2005, as "Denim Day Long Beach," and urge the citizens of Long Beach to wear jeans on April 27, 2005 to help communicate the message that there is "no excuse and never an invitation to rape."



Beverly O'Neill
Beverly O'Neill
MAYOR

Bonnie Lowenthal
Councilmember, First District

Dated: April 19, 2005