

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

START BY BELIEVING CAMPAIGN

A Resolution expressing support of the Regional Council of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) of the Start By Believing Campaign through End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI).

Whereas, EVAWI was established to inspire and educate those who respond to gender-based violence, equipping them with the knowledge and tools they need to support victims and hold perpetrators accountable, and that EVAWI promotes victim-centered, multi-disciplinary collaboration, which strengthens the response of the criminal justice system, other professionals, allies, and the general public – making communities safer; and

Whereas, the Arizona Department of Public Safety reported that in 2011 there were 1,653 reports of rape or attempted rape, which is five sexual assaults per day; and

Whereas, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports sexual assault occurs in approximately 40-45 percent of relationships involving domestic violence.

Whereas, according to the United States Department of Justice, only 40 percent of sexual assaults are reported; and

Whereas, research indicates that victims do not report sexual assault for fear that the criminal justice system will not believe them and rather will blame the victim; and

Whereas, sexual assault is a violent crime with devastating safety and health implications for every person in the MAG region, be they a victim, a survivor or family member, loved one, friend, neighbor, or co-worker of a victim; now, therefore,

Be it resolved that the members of the MAG Regional Council support victims of sexual assault through collaborative efforts within their communities by participating in the Start By Believing campaign as deemed appropriate by each member's organization/agency.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE REGIONAL
COUNCIL OF THE MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF
GOVERNMENTS THIS 19TH DAY OF JUNE 2013.

Barbara Marshall, Chair
MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council
Deputy Director, Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Marie Lopez Rogers, Chair
MAG Regional Council
Mayor, City of Avondale

ATTEST:

Dennis Smith
MAG Executive Director