



# PROCLAMATION

## Annual Start by Believing Day

**Whereas**, the Town of Camp Verde, in Yavapai County and in the State of Arizona shares a critical concern for victims of sexual violence and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and

**Whereas**, in 2016 the Marshal's Office received a total of 17 reports of sexual assault, rape or attempted rape, and the Sexual Assault Advocacy Center served the needs of victims during crisis interventions, peer counseling sessions, and forensic exams, 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;

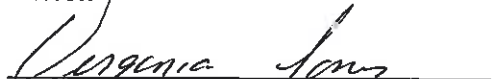
**Now Therefore, Be it Proclaimed** by all members of the Town Council that they support the Start by Believing public awareness campaign and do hereby declare the first Wednesday of April each year to be **Start by Believing Day** throughout the Town of Camp Verde, Arizona in Yavapai County.

Passed and approved by a majority of the Common Council at the Regular Session of March 15, 2017.

  
Charles German, Mayor

3.20.2017  
Date

Attest:

  
Virginia Jones, Town Clerk

