

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2009

Contact Helen Langan

801-641-6569

**Mayor Ralph Becker Issues Proclamation Declaring April
Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Salt Lake City**

SALT LAKE CITY – Mayor Ralph Becker issued a proclamation declaring April 2009 Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Salt Lake City, Utah. The goal of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to encourage open communication about sexual violence and to combat the silence and fear that allows sexual violence to continue.

Mayor Becker recognizes the need for an ongoing effort to respond to the issue of sexual violence and more importantly, to foster a society in which sexual violence is no longer tolerated.

According to research by the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, one in three Utah women will be a victim of sexual assault at some point in her lifetime. Ninety percent of victimized women will be assaulted by a person she knows. In the state of Utah, rape is the only violent crime that annually exceeds the national average.

Domestic violence has increased during the first three months of 2009, relative to one year ago. This increase is attributed to the downturn in the economy because declining finances and loss of jobs lead to increased stress and frustration. Research has also shown that when domestic violence strikes, many women feel they will not be able to survive on their own, particularly if they are financially dependent on their husbands.

“In these hard economic times, it is important for everyone to recognize this increase in violence against women and work as a community to mitigate it, which is why I am naming April Sexual Assault Awareness Month” stated Mayor Ralph Becker.

Currently, there are 55 organizations and agencies statewide that work to support and minimize the traumatic effects of sexual violence for those who have been sexually assaulted in conjunction with their family members, friends, and spouses.

There are several upcoming sexual assault awareness events scheduled throughout the Salt Lake Valley:

- **April 24th and 25th**
Tara Workshop
Registration required
utahtara@gmail.com
- **April 25**
Tooele Run Against Violence 5K

9:00a.m.
Elton Park
400 North and Broadway, Tooele
www.dvsava.org

- **April 26**
21 Praises of Tara Dance
4:00 p.m.
Pioneer Craft House
3271 South 500 East, Salt Lake City
Utahtara@gmail.com
- **April 29**
SAAM Awards Reception
4:30 p.m.
Utah Capitol

For more information please visit <http://www.slcgov.com/mayor/divHR/> or contact Yolanda Francisco-Nez, Coordinator Mayor's Office of Diversity & Human Rights at 801-535-7734

###