

Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

“Start By Believing” Public Awareness Campaign

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

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Coolidge Police Department received a total of 5 reports of rape or attempted rape; and

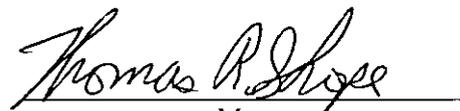
WHEREAS, research estimates that as many as 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men are the victim of rape (Center for Disease Control, 2012 Summary Report), yet most will not report the crime to law enforcement (U.S. Department of Justice, Victimization Not Reported to the Police, 2006-2010); and

WHEREAS, research documents that victims are far more likely to disclose their sexual assault to a friend or family member, and when those loved ones respond with doubt, shame or blame, victims suffer additional negative effects on their physical and psychological well-being (Rape Abuse & Incest National Network); and

WHEREAS, the “Start By Believing” public awareness campaign is designed to improve the responses of friends, family members and community professions, so they can help victims to access supportive resources and engage the criminal justice system.

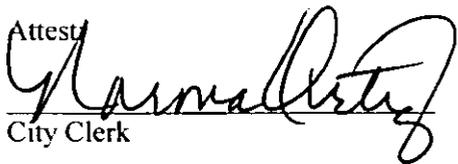
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas R. Shope, Mayor of the City of Coolidge, Arizona, do hereby proclaim, in concert with the Coolidge Police Department, the support of the “Start By Believing” public awareness campaign.

Signed and attested this 24th day of March, 2014



Mayor

Attest



City Clerk

