

SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

Resolution

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 1, 2026, AS START BY BELIEVING DAY IN SALT LAKE CITY

WHEREAS, *Salt Lake City shares a critical concern for victims of sexual violence and intimate partner violence and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and*

WHEREAS, *sexual assault, rape, child sexual abuse, and domestic violence are of epidemic proportions, with one in three Utah women experiencing sexual assault and/or domestic violence in their lifetimes, and one in seven Utah children experiencing child sexual abuse; 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 to help victims access supportive resources and engage with the criminal justice system; and*

WHEREAS, *the State of Utah has made historic strides in protecting survivors through the passage of HB89, Polygraph Amendments, making Utah the 28th state to prohibit law enforcement, court officers, or prosecutors from requiring sexual assault victims to undergo polygraph examinations, thereby aligning state law with best practices and securing vital Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding; and*

WHEREAS, *the Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault (UCASA) has successfully secured \$300,000 from the Utah Legislature in ongoing funding to fully staff the 24/7 Statewide Sexual Assault Helpline, ensuring that survivors have immediate, round-the-clock access to support in both English and Spanish; and*

WHEREAS, *"A Bolder Way Forward", a statewide initiative led by the Utah Women & Leadership Project at Utah State University, continues to support the Start by Believing campaign to improve our collective response to survivors across Utah.*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Salt Lake City Council and Mayor of Salt Lake City officially designate April 1, 2026, along with the first Wednesday of April each year, as Start by Believing Day.

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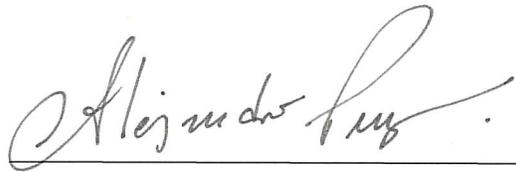
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that Salt Lake City reaffirms its dedication to advancing gender equality and promoting the empowerment of women and girls in all aspects of life, pledging to continue working towards a more inclusive and equitable society for future generations.

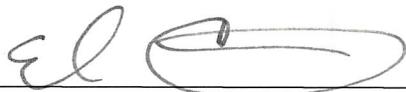
Adopted this 24th day of March 2026.



*Erin Mendenhall
Salt Lake City Mayor*



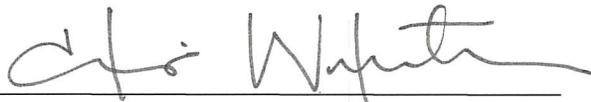
*Alejandro Puy, Chair
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Two*



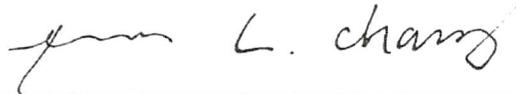
*Erika Carlsen, Vice Chair
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Five*



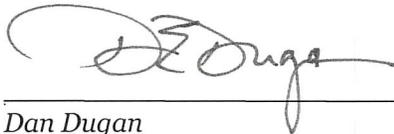
*Victoria Petro
Salt Lake City Council Member, District One*



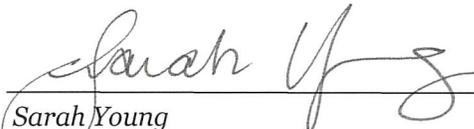
*Chris Wharton
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Three*



*Eva Lopez Chavez
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Four*



*Dan Dugan
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Six*



*Sarah Young
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Seven*

