

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CONTACT: Sergeant Jay O'Neill 623 930-3076

Officer Tracey Breedon 623 930- 3276

## Glendale Police Participate in Denim Day

**Glendale, AZ** - In conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month, **Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** is **Denim Day USA**- an award winning rape prevention education campaign originating in Rome, Italy in 1999 to protest a ruling by an appellate court, overturning the conviction of a 45 year old suspect accused of raping an 18 year old girl. Why denim? The statement released by the High Court declared: "because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them... and by removing the jeans... it was no longer rape but consensual sex."

Enraged by the verdict, women of the Italian Parliament protested by wearing jeans on the steps of parliament. Over the years, Denim Day has expanded worldwide to include community members, elected officials, businesses and students to make a social statement with their fashion statement. Wearing jeans on this anniversary became an international symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual violence. Denim Day especially focuses on raising awareness about sexual violence against women and children. This year marks the 15th celebration of Denim Day during National Sexual Violence Awareness Month.

Chief Debora Black is allowing and encouraging all members of the Glendale Police Department including uniformed patrol officers and civilians to make a statement by wearing jeans to work on Denim Day, Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. This effort is unprecedented. The entire purpose of the Glendale Police Department participating in Denim Day is to bring public attention to the issue of gender based violence and

our commitment to holding offenders accountable, as well as providing victims the compassion, support and justice they deserve.

We will be speaking to the public and the media on Denim Day about our purpose in participating in this campaign, the importance of providing victims support, sexual violence statistics, and free resources and counseling provided through the Glendale Police Family Advocacy Center.

Together we can create change! Your voice can raise awareness, support victims and prevent sexual violence. We encourage all members of our community to support Denim Day along with the Glendale Police Department.

- 1 in 5 women have been raped in their lifetime (CDCP, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).
- The majority (54%) of rapes are not reported (USDOJ).
- Half of female sexual assault victims were raped before age 18 (White House Report Rape & Sexual Assault).
- Every two minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted (USDOJ).

Visit Denim Day [www.denimdayusa.org](http://www.denimdayusa.org), or the Glendale Family Advocacy Center [www.glendaleaz.com/advocacycenter](http://www.glendaleaz.com/advocacycenter) for more information.

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*\*Spanish translation available*

*“The Glendale Police Department’s mission  
is to protect the lives and property of the people we serve.”*

*Glendale Police Department  
a proud recipient of CALEA National Accreditation since 2000*