

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pattern of control in an intimate relationship where one person uses coercion and violence to gain power and control over his or her partner;

WHEREAS, domestic violence includes not only physical abuse, but also mental abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, isolation, and sexual violence;

WHEREAS, intimate partner violence does not discriminate;

WHEREAS, the national average shows more than three women are murdered by an intimate partner in this country every day;

WHEREAS, in 2014, the City of Greensboro had 5 domestic violence related homicides, Guilford County reported 8 domestic violence related deaths in 2014; and the North Carolina Department of Justice reported that 64 women, men, and children were murdered in domestic violence-related homicides in the state;

WHEREAS, locally, Family Service of the Piedmont responded to over 2,536 crisis line calls in the last fiscal year and the Greensboro and High Point Police Departments along with the Guilford County Sheriff's Office collectively report responding to over 12,452 calls for service involving domestic violence;

WHEREAS, the Guilford County Department of Social Services investigated 5,636 reports of child abuse and neglect during the Fiscal Year 2015 in which 3% of those reports listed domestic violence as a primary threat to the household;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that anywhere between 3.3 million and 10 million children witness domestic violence annually;

WHEREAS, children who witness domestic violence are more likely to transmit violent behavior from one generation to the next and are more likely to exhibit behavioral and physical health problems;

WHEREAS, through a unique community partnership, the Guilford County Family Justice Center has served approximately 1200 citizens in crisis since its opening in mid-June 2015, and successfully brought together agencies throughout the County to provide victims with easier access to comprehensive resources in a single location through a coordinated collaborative effort, which has empowered family violence victims to live free from violence and abuse, and hold offenders accountable;

WHEREAS, domestic violence costs more than \$37 billion a year in law enforcement involvement, legal work, medical and mental health treatment, and lost productivity at companies;

WHEREAS, by working together and promoting awareness in this community we can protect the vulnerable, stop the violence, restore hope, and make a safer community for everyone.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

That it does hereby declares the month of October 2015, as “DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH” and urges citizens to increase their awareness and education of this destructive force which deeply affects a large number of families in our State and local community each year, and to become part of the efforts to stop violence in families.