

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2020 AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we reaffirm our dedication to creating a culture of safety and hope in our community where no one suffers the hurt and hardship caused by domestic violence. We recommit to doing everything in our power to uphold the basic human right to live free from violence and abuse and recognize our shared responsibility in ending this pervasive problem.

WHEREAS, domestic violence impacts women, men, and children of every age, background, and belief; and is rooted in a pattern of power and control;

WHEREAS, physical marks and scars are often the most obvious signs of harm, however, the extent of the pain goes much deeper and can impact one's mental, physical, emotional, and financial health;

WHEREAS, the national average shows that more than three individuals are murdered every day by an intimate partner, and in 2019, the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence reported that 57 women, men, and children were murdered in domestic violence-related homicides in our state; with Greensboro reporting 3 domestic violence related deaths;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the pressures that couples and families experience; the need for full community engagement to support those who are hurting and being hurt is paramount as the incidences of violence and abuse and domestic violence related homicide are on the rise in our community;

WHEREAS, the Guilford County Family Justice Center (FJC) has been a beacon of light during the pandemic, remaining open and assisting over 4,000 individuals through coordination among essential services including advocacy, law enforcement, and civil legal services;

WHEREAS, children and older adults impacted by domestic violence are even more isolated because of the pandemic creating an even greater need for innovative collaborations like the FJC's Pathways to Hope camping and mentoring program for children and the FJC's Elder Justice Committee coordinated community response;

WHEREAS, in a community partnership, the FJC in Greensboro has successfully brought together 17 agencies in one place to provide victims with easier access to comprehensive resources through a coordinated collaborative effort. This partnership provides hope and healing to victims of abuse and works diligently to hold offenders accountable;

WHEREAS, since the opening of the FJC in mid-June of 2015, over 45,000 citizens have been served, and on average, an individual works with five different organizations when visiting the FJC for the first time;

WHEREAS, by working together and promoting awareness in this community we can restore hope, stop the violence, and make our community safer for everyone; and

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

That it does hereby declare the month of October 2020, as “DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH” and urges citizens to increase their awareness and education of this destructive force, which deeply affects many families in our State and local community each year, and to become part of the efforts to stop violence in families.