

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-154

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

September 17, 2019

To declare the month of October 2019 as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, preserving and improving the dignity and safety of all District residents is the foundation of a vibrant and healthy community;

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior used to exert power and control over an intimate partner, and it jeopardizes the security and well-being of District residents;

WHEREAS, all forms of domestic violence – including physical, psychological, emotional, and economic – can have devastating consequences for survivors and their families;

WHEREAS, domestic violence can escalate into fatal conflicts, with 12 domestic violence-related fatalities in the District in 2018;

WHEREAS, a total of 5,921 petitions for civil protection orders were either filed or reopened in 2018;

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Office of Unified Communications reported that there were more than 30,000 calls for service for domestic violence-related incidents;

WHEREAS, youth in the District of Columbia deserve to be safe at school, in the home, and across the District;

WHEREAS, one in 3 adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth;

WHEREAS, 24 percent of middle and high school students in the District of Columbia report experiencing violence by someone they were dating in the past 12 months;

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WHEREAS, an estimated 8.5 million women in the United States have reported experiencing physical violence, rape, or stalking from an intimate partner before the age of 18;

WHEREAS, thirty nine percent of women in the District of Columbia have been subjected to sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking, and 50 percent reported experiencing psychological aggression by an intimate partner during their lifetime;

WHEREAS, domestic violence creates devastating economic costs for survivors, their families, and the community at large;

WHEREAS, nationally, women subjected to intimate partner violence lose nearly 13.6 million days of productivity each year, including 8 million days of paid work and 5.6 million days of childcare and other household work;

WHEREAS, community-based organizations are an essential resource to survivors of domestic violence;

WHEREAS, in 2018, in a single day, domestic violence programs served 589 survivors in the District of Columbia, with 404 survivors receiving emergency shelter or transitional housing and 185 survivors receiving non-residential assistance and services – including counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s support groups;

WHEREAS, community-based organizations serving survivors of domestic violence need local, regional, and national support to continue to be strong advocates for survivors and care for their needs;

WHEREAS, community-based organization serving survivors of domestic violence should be funded at levels that allow these organizations to pay service providers a living wage;

WHEREAS, domestic violence does not discriminate, including on the basis of age, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, socio-economic status, religion, or race;

WHEREAS, there is a continuing need for survivors to have access to culturally specific services that respect a survivor’s cultural heritage, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other lived experiences;

WHEREAS, the Council of the District of Columbia will continue to partner with District agencies, community-based organizations, and residents to build a domestic violence continuum of care that supports survivors and allows them to flourish;

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

WHEREAS, the goal of Domestic Violence Awareness Month is to improve awareness about domestic violence and foster cooperation between public and private actors to end domestic violence in the District.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Domestic Violence Awareness Month Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. The Council declares the month of October 2019 as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month” in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.