

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-380

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

September 18, 2018

To declare the month of October 2018 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 that jeopardizes the security and well-being of District residents;

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pervasive threat, with an estimated one in 4 women experiencing domestic violence at some point in their lifetimes;

WHEREAS, domestic violence can escalate into fatal conflicts, with 14 domestic violence-related homicides in 2017;

WHEREAS, 35,909 domestic violence-related calls were made to the Office of Unified Communications in 2017 – approximately one call every 14 minutes – which represents an 8% increase from 2014;

WHEREAS, 5,973 petitions for civil protection orders were filed in 2017;

WHEREAS, all forms of domestic violence, including physical, psychological, emotional, and economic abuse, can have devastating consequences on victims;

WHEREAS, domestic violence imposes a lifetime cost of approximately \$3.6 trillion on all victims nationally, including \$2.1 trillion in medical costs, \$1.3 trillion in lost productivity among victims and perpetrators, \$73 billion in criminal justice activities, and \$62 billion in other costs such as lost or damaged property;

WHEREAS, many domestic violence victims are forced to remain in dangerous and potentially lethal situations due to their inability to access long-term affordable housing;

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WHEREAS, according to the 2018 Homeless Point-in-Time Count, 33% of the District's homeless families reported a history of domestic violence, and, of those families, 55% were currently homeless as a direct result of being a victim of domestic violence;

WHEREAS, 24% of youth in middle and high school reported experiencing physical or sexual dating violence in 2017;

WHEREAS, domestic violence undermines the formation of healthy relationships, and the consequences of abuse must be addressed both in schools and in the community;

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

WHEREAS, there is a continuing need to provide survivors with culturally specific services that are informed by the survivor's cultural heritage, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other lived experiences;

WHEREAS, reporting rates of domestic violence are significantly lower for immigrant and non-citizen populations due to fears of immigration consequences, such as detention and deportation;

WHEREAS, the District has taken important steps of increasing funding support to help victims of domestic violence by providing life-saving public emergency services, establishing 24-hour hotlines, providing support for domestic violence housing, and, through the efforts of the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, ensuring that high-quality services are available to victims seeking help;

WHEREAS, eradicating domestic violence requires a continued partnership between District agencies, community-based organizations, and District residents; and

WHEREAS, the goal of Domestic Violence Awareness Month is to improve awareness about domestic violence and outreach to residents and community members, and to 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 2018".

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia declares the month of October 2018 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.