

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Proclamation

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH | 2020

WHEREAS, the safety, security, physical and emotional wellbeing of our neighbors affects the lives of everyone in our community; we recognize that domestic violence takes a variety of forms and believe all individuals have the right to live their best and fullest lives free of violence and fear; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men report experiencing severe violence by an intimate partner in their lifetimes, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Domestic violence is a serious, preventable public health concern involving the manipulation of power and control, including willful intimidation, physical and sexual assault, emotional and financial abuse, and other abusive behaviors; and

WHEREAS, anyone can be a victim of intimate partner violence, regardless of gender, age, race, socioeconomic status, ability, or relationship choice. We believe that everyone deserves a life free of violence, regardless of gender identification, ethnicity, ability, age, religion, or social status; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that the crime of domestic violence impacts victims, families, and society, and can lead to long-term health problems, missed days of work and loss of employment, psychological distress, family instability and homelessness, and increased risk for future violence; and

WHEREAS, ending domestic violence starts with awareness and education, changing social norms about gender and violence, and mobilizing our communities, including men, boys, our faith institutions, the public, and private sectors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wendy Jacobs, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 2020 as

“DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH”

in Durham County. We urge all who engage with youth to teach and model respect, consent, and healthy relationships. We encourage government, health professionals, law enforcement, faith communities, and civic organizations to ensure an inclusive environment that supports survivors of domestic violence and sustains their efforts to rebuild their lives without violence in Durham. We are strongly committed to working with all partners so that every individual can access appropriate and affirming resources to address and end violence in our communities.

This the 28th day of September 2020.

Wendy Jacobs, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

