



Proclamation



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in a relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain control over another intimate partner; it includes not only physical abuse, but also mental abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, stalking and sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence happens in every community, it affects people of all genders, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations and ages; and

WHEREAS, in October 1981, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence held a “Day of Unity” to connect people across the United States who were working to stop violence against women and children; this grew into Domestic Violence Awareness Month, first observed in 1987, designated by Congress in 1989 with the passage of Public Law 101-112, and observed annually since then; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2015 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Data Brief, 25% of women and over 10% men in the United States have experienced, and reported, physical violence, sexual violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime; when estimates of unreported crimes are included, this jumps to 36% of women and 33% of men; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a surge of domestic violence around the globe; a study conducted by the United Nations indicated that reports of domestic violence in France rose by 30% during its lockdown; in Argentina they rose by 25%, in Singapore by 33%, Cyprus by 30%, reports also increased in Spain, Germany, Canada and the United Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, according to a report in the Los Angeles Times, radiologists in the United States are seeing higher rates of fractured bones, and bruised and punctured organs, which experts believe is evidence of increased domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the lockdowns that were implemented to slow the spread of the disease created a condition in which the victims of domestic violence were trapped with their abusers; they were less able to contact outside agencies for help, while the stress of the pandemic, along with the isolation and economic hardship it caused, fueled the violence that was inflicted; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as Compass Center for Women and Families provide vital services to victims of domestic violence in Carrboro and the surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, this month, we commit to standing with survivors of domestic violence, and to doing our utmost to extend hope and healing to all who need it.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim **October 2020** as “**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**” in the Town of Carrboro. I encourage residents to show support for victims and survivors of domestic violence, and to work toward a future when all people can feel safe in their relationships and their homes.

This the 6th day of October, 2020.



Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor