

# *Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation*

OCTOBER 2012

Whereas, domestic violence is a coercive violation that occurs within families, betraying our fundamental understanding of home as a safe haven, of the bonds of love and of the conditions of trust; and

Whereas, domestic violence affects individuals and families from every race, gender, age and walk of life; and

Whereas, domestic violence is much more than simple quarreling or routine arguments; rather, it is a cycle of violence spawned by the perpetrator's desire for power and control that can and does escalate to the point of serious injury or death; and

Whereas, domestic violence affects one in three women in the United States; and

Whereas, children are always negatively impacted by violence in the home, whether they are physically or verbally abused themselves or simply witness the violence; and

Whereas, thirty percent of Americans say they know a woman who has been physically abused by her husband or boyfriend in the past year, which means that a significant percentage of Montgomery area citizens are acquainted with someone who has been bound by the unyielding tethers of domestic violence; and

Whereas, survivors of domestic violence experience physical injuries, long-term psychological damage, financial instability, and trouble finding safe housing; and

Whereas, police and sheriff's departments, courts, cities, social services agencies, and other local government entities constitute the first line of defense against domestic violence; and

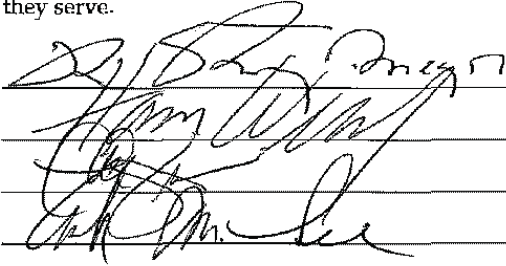
Whereas, U.S. and world leaders recognize that domestic violence is a human rights concern; and

Whereas, considering domestic violence through the lens of human rights heightens its gravity and lends weight to the importance of awareness, education and response in public and private sectors; and

Whereas, the City of Montgomery and its neighbors in Montgomery have been dedicated for years to confronting domestic violence, to providing coordinated community responses to its victims, and to advocating for peace in our homes and families;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Montgomery City and County officials declare October 2012, to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to reflect on abuse in area homes, its implications and positive ways to assist victims, and to recognize those members of our community devoted to making homes safe havens;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that these officials join U.S. and world leaders in recognizing domestic violence as a human rights concern and declare that freedom from domestic violence is a human right toward which state and local governments should aspire on behalf of all of the citizens they serve.

  
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