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RESOLUTION NO. 47 - 2011

**DECLARING** that freedom from domestic violence is a fundamental human right and further **DECLARING** that local governments have a responsibility to continue securing this right on behalf of their citizens.

WHEREAS, according to the Domestic Violence Resource Center, one in four women and one in thirteen men experiences domestic violence in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County Pre-Trial Services reports that there were 3,828 domestic violence arrests in 2010, a six percent increase from 2009, and only 28.7 percent (1,098) of those arrested were sentenced; and

WHEREAS, of the 1,098 sentenced, 73 percent received probation, 23 percent were ordered to jail, and 506 protection orders were issued; and

WHEREAS, in Hamilton County between 2008 and 2010, sixteen women and two children were victims of domestic violence homicide and, in each case, the woman had ended her relationship with her abuser and planned to leave or had already done so; and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County YWCA Battered Women's Shelter responded to 21,778 hotline calls and sheltered 599 women and children in 2010; and

WHEREAS, due to increased demand, the Battered Women's Shelter expanded its shelter capacity from 54 beds to 72 beds in 2010; and

WHEREAS, survivors of domestic violence must deal with the effects of physical injuries, long-term psychological damage, financial instability, and trouble finding safe housing; and

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

WHEREAS, police and sheriff's departments, courts, cities, social service agencies, and other local government entities incur significant monetary costs due to domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, world leaders and leaders within the United States recognize that domestic violence is a human rights concern; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted in 1993, recognizes the urgent need for the universal application to women of the rights and principles with regard to equality, security, liberty, integrity, and dignity of all human beings, noting that "those rights and principles are enshrined in international instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights"; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights condemned violence and human rights violations against women in March, 1994; and

WHEREAS, by recognizing that domestic violence is a human rights issue, the City of Cincinnati will raise awareness and enhance domestic violence education in communities, the public and private sectors, and within government agencies; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the City of Cincinnati declares that freedom from domestic violence is a fundamental human right.

Section 2. That the City of Cincinnati declares that state and local governments bear a responsibility to continue securing this human right on behalf of their citizens.

Section 3. That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed: October 5, 2011

Attest: William A. [Signature]  
Clerk

[Signature]  
Mayor

Submitted by Vice-Mayor Roxanne Qualls [Signature]