

# City of Boston IN CITY COUNCIL

OFFERED BY:

BOSTON CITY COUNCILLORS CHARLES C. YANCEY AND AYANNA PRESSLEY

## A RESOLUTION DECLARING FREEDOM FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS A HUMAN RIGHT



- WHEREAS:** Eleven percent of high school students and six percent of middle school students throughout the United States reported being physically abused by a date sometime in their lifetimes; and
- WHEREAS:** Almost half of the teenagers throughout the United States, aged 13-18, reported having a controlling partner, while 80% reported knowing someone who has been controlled by a partner; and
- WHEREAS:** Twenty-four people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** It is estimated that more than one in two women and one in four men throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts experience domestic violence within their lifetimes; and
- WHEREAS:** Over two thousand unduplicated incidents of sexual assaults were reported to rape crisis centers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012; and
- WHEREAS:** The Massachusetts 2012 Domestic Violence Census, with 54 organizations represented, reported providing services to a staggering 1,752 adults and children on the one day they were assessed; and
- WHEREAS:** Between 2003-2013, there were 277 domestic violence-related homicides in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with 60% of the victims being women or girls; and
- WHEREAS:** The Boston City Council proclaimed the City of Boston a "Human Rights City" on April 20, 2011 and, as a Human Rights City, is a model for communities around the world; and
- WHEREAS:** Public safety officials, including members of the Police and Sheriff departments, along with city and local agencies, courts and other local government entities constitute the first line of defense against domestic violence for many individuals; and
- WHEREAS:** Domestic violence encompasses various forms of abuse not always recognizable to members of the community, nor do victims or perpetrators of domestic violence fit a particular stereotype associated with the issue; Therefore, Be It
- RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council, in meeting assembled, acknowledges that there is no singular, stereotypical example of domestic violence and that this issue affects every segment of society, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, or annual income and recognizes that freedom from domestic violence is a fundamental human right that no person shall infringe upon.



By: \_\_\_\_\_

*Bill Lubiano*

President of the City Council

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

*Maureen Leehey*  
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: \_\_\_\_\_

*Charles C. Yancey* *Ayanne Pressley*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

May 7, 2014