

A resolution

adopted by *The City Council*
of the *City of Chicago, Illinois*



Presented by MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL on OCTOBER 8, 2014

Whereas, The United Nations recognizes domestic violence as a human rights issue; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama reauthorized and extended the Violence Against Women Act to advance the cause of security, justice, and dignity for mothers and daughters in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Police and sheriffs' departments, courts, cities, counties, social services agencies, and other local government entities constitute the first line of defense against domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline answers 25,000 to 30,000 calls annually; and

WHEREAS, The Circuit Court of Cook County issued more than 5,600 Emergency Orders of Protection and 4,100 Plenary Orders of Protection in 2013; and

WHEREAS, During the same period, the Chicago Police Department responded to more than 48,000 domestic incidents, including 31 domestic homicides; and

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services is dedicated to enhancing the lives of Chicago residents, particularly those most in need; and

WHEREAS, The consequences of domestic violence include physical injuries, long-term psychological damage, financial instability, and difficulty finding safe housing; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Family and Support Services funds six types of domestic violence programs: shelters; counseling and case management; legal advocacy; legal representation; supervised visitation and safe exchanges; and resource and information advocacy at Chicago's centralized domestic violence court; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, the City of Chicago helped more than 11,200 clients through these Department of Family and Support Services programs, and 192 families received supervised visitation or safe exchange services from City-funded programs; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Department of Public Health collaborates with four partners to provide clinical support to children exposed to violence in an effort to reduce the potential of lifelong harm to their social-emotional, psychological, and physical health, helping them to lead healthier childhoods and grow into healthy adults; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor of the City of Chicago, the Cook County State's Attorney, the Chicago Police Department, and the Department of Family and Support Services operate an inter-governmental task force to provide a coordinated response to domestic violence incidents in the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, This same task force has developed and implemented state-of-the-art training for Chicago Police Officers; and

WHEREAS, There are only four domestic violence shelters with a total of 115 beds for domestic violence victims and their children in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, the City of Chicago committed \$1.8 million to build the first new domestic violence shelter in over a decade; and

WHEREAS, Promoting the recognition of domestic violence as an issue of human rights will raise public awareness and encourage family-violence education in communities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this eighth day of October, 2014, do hereby join world leaders and leaders within the United States in recognition of domestic violence as a human rights concern; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Joining President Barack Obama's proclamation on the Twentieth Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, and his call upon men and women of all ages, communities, organizations, and levels of government to work in collaboration to end violence against women, we declare the month of October Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City will continue its wide dissemination of domestic violence information to foster greater awareness of the issue among Chicagoans, and hereby renews its commitment to cooperate with non-governmental organizations and local businesses to promote programs combating the scourge of domestic violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City is committed to respond diligently to acts of domestic violence, and that each of the City's departments shall incorporate the principles embodied in this resolution into their policies and practices.



RaEmanuel

MAYOR

Susana A. Mendoza

CITY CLERK