

(Councilor Linda M. Pereira)

WHEREAS, domestic violence or intimate partner violence is the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of men, women, and children by their intimate partners or immediate family members, and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a human rights concern that affects individuals of every gender, sexual orientation, race, age, nationality, religion and economic status, and

WHEREAS, survivors of domestic violence must deal with consequences including physical injuries, long-term psychological damage, financial instability and difficulty finding safe housing, 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 in their lifetime, and

WHEREAS, public safety officials, including members of the police and sheriff departments, along with city and local agencies, courts and local government constitute the first line of defense against domestic violence, and

WHEREAS, by recognizing that domestic violence is a human rights violation, Fall River will raise awareness through domestic violence education in communities, the public and private sectors and within government agencies, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fall River City Council acknowledges that there is no stereotypical example of domestic violence and that this issue affects every segment of society, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious affiliation or financial status and recognizes that freedom from domestic violence is a fundamental human right that no person shall infringe upon.