

County of Buncombe

Proclamation

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, domestic violence, which can include physical, mental, sexual, emotional, and financial abuse, is a means of intimidation and violence to influence and control a partner involved in an intimate relationship; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 1 in 4 women and nearly 1 in 10 men experienced some form of intimate partner violence, including sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking, during their lifetime; and nearly half of transgender/non-binary people experience intimate partner violence (IPV); and

WHEREAS, domestic violence survivors in rural areas, those who struggle socioeconomically, those who are immigrants, and those who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups, and those who are members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community continue to be among the most affected; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence accounts for 21 percent and intimate partner violence accounts for 15 percent of all violent crime in the United States; and these crimes are under reported or not reported at all; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious public health issue that results in billions of dollars spent annually in medical, mental health, and lost work productivity costs; and

WHEREAS, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, domestic violence survivors experienced increased isolation from support services, reduced capacity of crisis centers, increased symptoms of mental health conditions, and financial stress; and the impacts of limited protections, displacement, and/or the need to rely on abusers for physical and financial survival were also heightened by the pandemic; and

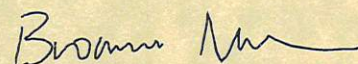
WHEREAS, Buncombe County recognizes domestic violence is not just a singular niche problem but instead a large-scale issue that impacts individuals, families, children, schools, places of work, housing, mental health, substance use, and our military and veteran communities; and

WHEREAS, we know there is hope; and partners at the Buncombe County Family Justice Center collaborate to offer a safe location for survivors of domestic violence to receive forensic medical exams, assistance creating safety plans, case management, counseling, and legal support in one location; and the Buncombe County Family Justice Center served 2,289 survivors in FY2022; and

WHEREAS, by working together, we can raise awareness, educate, and create healthier community norms to break the cycle of violence in order to build safer communities for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 2022 as **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH** in Buncombe County and urge all our community members, including our youth, to join with us in making the commitment to be create a safe environment for all by speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions and standing up against violence.

Adopted this the 18th day of October, 2022.



Brownie Newman, Chairman
Buncombe County Board of Commissioner