

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, violate, and control a partner involved in an intimate relationship; and

Whereas: An average of 24 people per minute experience rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States, more than 12 million people over the course of a single year; 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: The problems of domestic violence are not confined to any specific groups of people, and can happen to anyone regardless of racial or ethnic identity, sexual orientation, education level, socio-economic status, gender identity, or religious beliefs, and these problems are sustained by societal indifference; and

Whereas: Intersecting layers of identity like race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, religion/spirituality, citizenship status, and spoken language, in the context of American society, make it easier for abusers to isolate, control, and create and sustain power over survivors within communities that have been marginalized; and

Whereas: Children who grow up witnessing domestic violence in their homes are deeply impacted and are more likely to have trouble in school, more likely to perpetuate and be victimized by violence themselves, and more likely to experience long-term mental and physical health challenges; and

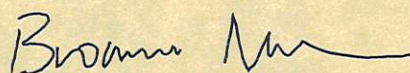
Whereas: Survivors should have help to find the compassion, comfort, and healing they need, and abusers should be held accountable for their violent behavior; and

Whereas: We know there is hope; the Buncombe County Family Justice Center collaborates to offer a safe place for survivors of domestic violence, and in FY23, 56% of survivors accessed services at two or more partner agencies on their first visit, including forensic medical exams, assistance creating safety plans, case management, counseling, criminal reporting, and legal support in one safe location resulting in 94% of survivors reporting feeling safer; and

Whereas: It is survivors of abuse who have been in the forefront of efforts to bring peace and equality to the home; and

Whereas: Domestic Violence Awareness Month is an opportunity to stand with survivors, to celebrate the progress we have made in combating these crimes, and to recommit to preventing domestic violence in our community by working together in order to build safer communities for all;

Now Therefore, be it proclaimed that the month of October 2023 be proclaimed Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and we urge our residents to make the commitment to stop domestic violence by speaking out against it and learning more about the resources available to survivors and their families.



Brownie Newman, Chairman
Buncombe County Board of Commissioner