



PROCLAMATION

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the vision for Arlington County is one in which Arlington is a peaceful and respectful community where diversity is celebrated, violence is not tolerated, and all people are empowered to build healthy relationships free from fear or threat of all forms of domestic and sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, as a community, Arlington is dedicated to addressing the issue of domestic, dating, and intimate partner violence ensuring those who have been harmed are offered timely, appropriate support services while those who harm are held accountable; and

WHEREAS, as a community to ensure prevention efforts are aimed at ensuring everyone in our community knows and is practicing safe and healthy relationship behaviors and affirmative consent; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious crime that affects people of all races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and income levels in our community and across the nation; and 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, the crime of domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity due to the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, and economic control and/or abuse; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is widespread and can impact entire families; children that grow up in violent homes are abused and neglected at a rate higher than the national average, and during the Coronavirus public health crisis those needing support services are more isolated and in greater need of support than ever before; and

WHEREAS, under the umbrella of Project PEACE, important partnerships thrive among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, healthcare providers, allied professionals, and victim advocacy services to assist victims of domestic violence and their families and enhance our community's response; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about the impact of domestic violence in our community and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victims; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Libby Garvey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim October 2020, as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in Arlington County, to honor those who have lost their lives, celebrate those who survived, applaud those who have learned to engage in safe and healthy relationship behaviors.

Libby Garvey
Chair