



Established 1771

CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

October 2024 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Chatham County

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious crime that affects people of all races, ages, genders, and socioeconomic statuses, causing devastating emotional, psychological, and physical harm to survivors and their families; and

WHEREAS, the impact of domestic violence reaches far beyond its victims, creating a ripple effect throughout the entire community by contributing to issues such as poverty, homelessness, mental illness, and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, according to national statistics, one in four women and one in seven men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime, while many others suffer from emotional, financial, and verbal abuse; and

WHEREAS, children who are exposed to domestic violence are often profoundly affected, with research showing they are more likely to experience abuse, neglect, and trauma, which can have long-lasting impacts on their mental health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, local domestic violence agencies, shelters, law enforcement, and advocacy organizations in Chatham County work tirelessly to provide essential support, services, and resources to survivors and their families, including safe housing, counseling, and legal advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, observed each October, is an opportunity for Chatham County residents to unite and raise awareness about this critical issue, to honor the strength and courage of survivors, and to advocate for effective policies that prevent violence and hold perpetrators accountable; and

WHEREAS, by educating our community about the signs of domestic violence, promoting healthy relationships, and supporting efforts to intervene in and prevent abuse, we can help build a safer, more compassionate community for all individuals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners that the month of October is **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** in Chatham County and calls upon all residents to increase their understanding of this issue, to stand in solidarity with survivors, and to participate in efforts to end domestic violence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution serves as a reminder that we, as a community, are committed to addressing the epidemic of domestic violence, ensuring that survivors have access to the resources and support they need, and fostering an environment where all individuals can live free from violence and fear. We thereby ask our community to show support by wearing purple on October 17, 2024.

Adopted, this the 7th day of October 2024.

Mike Dasher, Chair

ATTEST:

Jenifer K. Johnson, MMC, Clerk to the Board