

Proclamation

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Whereas, In the United States, an average of 20 people experience intimate partner physical violence every minute. This equates to more than 10 million abuse victims annually; and

Whereas, approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year; and

Whereas, when a family member is abused, it can have long-term damaging effects on the victim that also leave a mark on family, friends, and the community at large; and

Whereas, violence against women and children is a prevalent social ill due to the historical imbalance of power in gender and age; however, sexual and domestic violence are widespread and are devastating to society as a whole; and

Whereas, the problems of sexual and domestic violence are not confined to any group or groups of people, but crosses all economic, racial, gender, educational, religious, and societal barriers, and are sustained by societal indifference; and

Whereas, the crimes of domestic and sexual violence violate 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, victims should have help to find the compassion, comfort, and healing they need, and abusers should be punished to the full extent of the law; and

Whereas, victims of violence should have access to medical and legal services, counseling, emergency and transitional housing, and other supportive services so that they can safely escape the cycle of abuse; and

Whereas, we encourage domestic and sexual violence victims and their families to seek assistance from appropriate victims' services organizations; and

Whereas, it is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the individuals who provide services to victims of domestic and sexual violence and work to increase public understanding of this significant problem; and

Whereas, local programs, state coalitions, national organizations, and other agencies nationwide are committed to increasing public awareness of domestic and sexual violence and its prevalence, and to eliminating it through prevention, education; and

Whereas, important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, healthcare providers, allied professionals, and victim services to assist victims of domestic and sexual violence and their families; and

Whereas, we dedicate ourselves to protecting vulnerable members of our community; and

Whereas, Adams County, Colorado has a moral obligation to work to prevent domestic violence, address its brutal and destructive effects and make ending domestic violence a local priority; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved That, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Adams, State of Colorado, proclaims October 2018 as

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

and urges all citizens to actively support first responders, victims of crime and their service providers in our community to work towards the elimination of domestic violence and sexual assault.