

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 441*

**Approved October 25, 2017**

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a serious crime that affects people of all races, ages, gender, and income levels; and

WHEREAS, Nearly one in four women and one in seven men in the United States have suffered physical violence by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, According to a special report of the U.S. Department of Justice, from 2003 to 2012, domestic violence accounted for 21% of all violent crime in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), on a typical day, domestic violence hotlines nationwide receive nearly 21,000 calls; and

WHEREAS, In 2014 alone, 8,876 victims of domestic violence were served by domestic violence programs in Rhode Island, according to the NCADV; and

WHEREAS, Additionally the NCADV found that 11% of Rhode Island high school students have been physically hurt by a significant other, higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, Victims are deprived of their autonomy, liberty, and security, and face tremendous threats to their health and safety; and

WHEREAS, A 2009 report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that children are present during 36% of domestic or intimate partner violence cases and, of those children, 60% directly witnessed violence; and

WHEREAS, According to the Childhood Domestic Violence Association, people who experience domestic violence as children frequently suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, are 50% more likely to abuse drugs or alcohol, 74% more likely to commit a violent crime, and six times more likely to commit suicide; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence costs the nation billions of dollars annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters, foster care, sick leave, absenteeism, and non-productivity; and

WHEREAS, Only a coordinated community effort will put a stop to domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Several organizations in Providence work to raise awareness about domestic violence, assist victims, and promote healthy relationships, including the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Women's Center of Rhode Island, and Sojourner House; and

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for people to learn more about preventing domestic violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services, and assistance to victims.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby recognize the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urge our citizens to work together to eliminate domestic violence from our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council does express its appreciation and recognizes the commitment and dedication of local organizations that advocate on behalf of victims and raise awareness about domestic violence each and every day.

IN CITY COUNCIL

OCT 19 2017

READ AND PASSED

*Sabrina Mats*  
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ACTING PRES.

*Lois L. Hays*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

*[Signature]*  
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Mayor  
Date: 10/25/17