PROCLAMATION

DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2021 AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, domestic violence continues to be a major social crisis and health care concern in our state and in Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, the physical and emotional scars of domestic violence cast a long shadow on too many individuals who face the pain and fear of domestic violence regardless of race, age, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic status or citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Florida reported 106,515 incidents of domestic violence in 2020, including 198 homicides and 19 manslaughters that resulted in the deaths of 45 children; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County reported 4,359 domestic violence crimes in 2020, a nearly 6 percent decrease from 2019, including eight homicides and two manslaughters; and

WHEREAS, exposure to domestic violence in a home with children is considered child abuse, with lifelong effects on the children involved; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Families investigated 4,602 cases involving domestic violence in Palm Beach County last year, a nearly 11 percent decrease from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, there were 376 verified cases of maltreatment for family, household or intimate partner violence that threatens a child in the county in 2020, which is a 28 percent decrease from 2019; and

WHEREAS, in those verified cases, 99 children age 5 or younger were removed from their homes and placed in foster care, which is a 40.7 percent decrease over the previous year; and

WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Council of Palm Beach County recognizes that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic – including but not limited to social distancing measures, reduced opportunities for victims to make calls for help, less face-to-face contact, and limitations on family gatherings, businesses, governments, schools and places of worship – may have contributed to reduced hotline calls and subsequent domestic violence investigations in 2020; and

WHEREAS, local domestic violence leaders in collaboration with community leaders and survivors of domestic violence are working together to enhance our county’s coordinated community response to domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Council of Palm Beach County is sponsoring a Domestic Violence Awareness Month virtual opening ceremony, called “Looking Back to Move Forward” at 9 a.m. on Friday, October 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County recognizes the vital importance of designating a time devoted to increasing the general public’s awareness to hold forth a vision of a community free from domestic violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF CHILDREN’S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY that the following will be observed:

October 2021 – Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Council Member Vincent Goodman, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Council Member Tom Weber, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:
Thomas Bean  
Mike Burke  
Elisa Cramer  
Vincent Goodman  
Kathleen Kroll  
Jose Luis Rodriguez, Esq.  
Maria Sachs  
Debra Robinson, M.D.  
Thomas P. Weber  

YES  
ABSENT  
YES  
YES  
YES  
YES  
ABSENT  
ABSENT  
YES

The Chairman thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 23rd day of September, 2021.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

BY: Debra E. Gotlib  
Attorney for Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County

CHILDREN’S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

BY: Thomas Bean, Chair

BY: Lisa Williams-Taylor  
Chief Executive Officer

Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer