

## **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:

Proclamation – Domestic Violence Awareness Month  
October 2021  
Page 2

Thomas Bean	YES
Mike Burke	ABSENT
Elisa Cramer	YES
Vincent Goodman	YES
Kathleen Kroll	YES
Jose Luis Rodriguez, Esq.	YES
Maria Sachs	ABSENT
Debra Robinson, M.D.	ABSENT
Thomas P. Weber	YES

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

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

DocuSigned by:  
*Debra Gotlib*  
BY: 0EEDB272FD49B401...

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

CHILDREN’S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

DocuSigned by:  
*Thomas Bean*  
BY: 9AFA6A0B47B64DF

Thomas Bean, Chair

DocuSigned by:  
*Lisa Williams-Taylor*  
BY: EEEEC04CB70E497

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