

PROCLAMATION

Declaring the Month of October 2020 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 105,298 incidents of domestic violence in 2019, including 200 homicides and 21 manslaughters that resulted in the deaths of 37 children; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County reported 4,633 domestic violence crimes in 2019, slightly up from 2018, including ten 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 5,155 cases involving domestic violence in Palm Beach County last year, a very slight increase from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, there were 522 verified cases of maltreatment for family, household or intimate partner violence that threatens a child in the county in 2019, which is a 13 percent increase from 2018 and approximately a 32 percent decrease since 2015; and

WHEREAS, in those verified cases, 167 children age 5 or younger were removed from their homes and placed in foster care, which is a 24 percent increase over the past year; and

WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Council of Palm Beach County is coordinating a community-based response through advocacy, education and prevention with the goal of reducing the impact of violence on families; and

WHEREAS, there were 244 dedicated advocates, therapists, case managers, attorneys and volunteers across 10 organizations providing support to safety planning, access to emergency housing, and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Council of Palm Beach County is sponsoring a Domestic Violence Awareness Month virtual opening ceremony, called "Shining the Light on Frontline Workers" at 9 a.m. on Thursday, October 1, 2020; 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, assembled in regular session this 24th day of September 2020, that the month of October 2020, in Palm Beach County, is hereby declared:

October 2020 – 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 Melissa McKinlay.

The Chairman thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 24th day of September, 2020.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

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

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

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Thomas Bean
BY: _____
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Thomas Bean, Chair

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Lisa Williams-Taylor
BY: _____
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Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer