

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Proclamation

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, Arlington County envisions a peaceful and respectful community – where diversity is celebrated, violence is not tolerated, and where all people are empowered to build healthy and safe relationships; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious crime that affects people of all races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and income levels in our community and across the nation – where “About 41% of women and 26% of men experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner and reported an intimate partner violence-related impact during their lifetime.”, with Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), trans and nonbinary people experiencing the same or higher rates of violence: and

WHEREAS, domestic violence continues to impact more adults and children every year in Arlington leaving ripple effects throughout our community, with 117 adults and children receiving safe housing and 344 individuals calling the police for help last calendar year in Arlington alone, and although rates of domestic violence are high, this crime is still largely underreported, especially among the most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, we dedicate ourselves to ensuring the safety of vulnerable members of our community, and our networks of support services work 24/7 to meet the needs of those who have been harmed, assist those who need immediate support, and meet the ongoing needs of those experiencing any form of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, as a community, Arlington is dedicated to addressing the issues of domestic dating and intimate partner violence, by ensuring that those using coercive and controlling behaviors with their partners and families are offered timely, equitable, and culturally responsive support services; and

WHEREAS, under the umbrella of Project PEACE, important partnerships among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, healthcare providers, allied professionals, and victim advocacy services assist all those impacted by domestic violence to enhance Arlington’s community response; and

WHEREAS, these primary prevention efforts seek to educate youth, parents, service providers, and the community at large to ensure everyone has the skills they need to have respectful, safe, and supportive relationships;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Christian Dorsey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim **October 2023** as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

in Arlington County, to honor those who have lost their lives, to celebrate those who have survived, to encourage community members to learn more about the impact of domestic violence, and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals that provide critical education, advocacy, services, and assistance to victims.



Christian Dorsey
Chair