

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 – according to the CDC, “nearly one in two women and men reported experiencing psychological aggression by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetimes, and more than two in five adult women and men reported experiencing physical violence victimization by an intimate partner during their lifetimes,” exposing approximately one in 10 children to domestic violence each year, 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 affect more adults and children in Arlington creating far-reaching impacts across the community, with 318 individuals seeking help by contacting the police and Doorways provided safehousing for 70 individuals and families, and delivered 1,053 children’s services sessions – a 63% rise from the previous year.

WHEREAS, support services such as the Arlington County Emergency Communications Center and Police Department, Courts and Department of Human Services Child Welfare, and 24-Hour Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline and Safehouse, work every hour of every day, to meet the needs of those who have been harmed, assisting those who need immediate support and helping those experiencing any form of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, as a community, Arlington is dedicated to addressing the issue of domestic, dating and intimate partner violence, ensuring 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 – a county-wide effort to prevent, identify and respond to domestic and sexual violence – important partnerships thrive among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, healthcare providers, allied professionals, and victim advocacy services to assist those impacted by domestic violence, and to enhance Arlington’s community response; and

WHEREAS, these efforts include primary prevention efforts that seek to educate youth, parents, services providers, and the community at large to make sure everyone has the skills they need to have relationships that are respectful, safe, and supportive;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Libby Garvey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim October 2024 as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

in Arlington County, to honor those who have lost their lives, celebrate those who survived, and encourage everyone in our community to join our efforts to end domestic violence.




Libby Garvey
Chair

