

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a time to raise awareness about domestic violence, support survivors, promote prevention efforts, encourage early intervention, and offer support to those affected; *and*

WHEREAS, Domestic violence can happen to nearly anyone, as one in four women and one in seven men will experience domestic violence during their lifetime. Certain groups will experience domestic violence at higher rates than others, such as Black women at 2.5x higher than that of white women, and Indigenous women, who experience the highest rates of domestic violence, at five times that of white women; *and*

WHEREAS, Gun violence prevention is domestic violence prevention, as the presence of a gun during a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%, and over half of all domestic violence homicides involve guns, and between 2014 - 2019, 59% of mass shootings were domestic related, and in 68% of mass shootings, the shooter either killed an intimate partner/family member or had a prior history of domestic violence; *and*

WHEREAS, Domestic violence has severe and long-lasting physical, emotional, and psychological consequences on victims and their communities, and through education, advocacy, and community engagement, we can promote awareness and change attitudes towards domestic violence, ultimately creating a safer and more supportive environment for survivors; *and*

WHEREAS, All residents are encouraged to educate themselves about the signs of domestic violence, to offer assistance to those in need, and to help foster a society where domestic violence is not tolerated; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council go on record declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and support federal, state, and local initiatives that allocate more resources, funding, and aid for programs and strategies that address domestic violence.

File in Council: October 18, 2023