



- WHEREAS, domestic violence impacts women, men, and children of every age, background, and belief with nearly 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men in the United States having suffered severe physical violence by an intimate partner; and,
- WHEREAS, while physical marks may often be the most obvious signs of harm caused by domestic violence, the true extent of the pain goes much deeper; and,
- WHEREAS, survivors not only face abuse, but often find themselves left with significant financial insecurity and children who witness domestic violence often experience lifelong trauma; and,
- WHEREAS, survivors and their children benefit from an increase in trauma informed support, clinical services and trauma sensitive environments; and,
- WHEREAS, the newly established Hope United Survivor Network in conjunction with Victim Advocates from the Gaston County Sheriff's Office, the Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center and the Cathy Mabry Cloninger Center has continued to meet the needs of domestic violence survivors through housing, counseling, advocacy, education and support; and,
- WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing domestic violence and show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to survivors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims October 2021 as

## ***Domestic Violence Awareness Month***

and urge all citizens of Gaston County to speak out against domestic violence and support local efforts to assist survivors of these crimes in finding the help and healing they need.

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Tom Keigher, Chairman

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Chad Brown

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Kim Johnson

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Allen R. Fraley, Vice-Chairman

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Tracy L. Philbeck

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Bob Hovis

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Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 26<sup>th</sup> Day of October 2021