



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PROCLAMATION  
Recognizing October 2020 as  
Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is a pattern of intentionally violent and/or controlling behavior to gain power or control over a family member or fating/intimate partner that violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Center for Disease Control, 1 in 4 women and nearly 1 in 10 men in the United States have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence spans gender, age, sexual orientation, and religion, and affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels; and

**WHEREAS**, some of the biggest victims of domestic violence are the smallest, with approximately 22 million children exposed to domestic violence every year, 90% of which are eyewitnesses to the violence; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's COVID-19 pandemic has led to a significant increase in domestic violence cases around the world, as a result of movement restrictions and quarantines. Isolation is a major risk factor in domestic violence and COVID-19 has increased isolation both physically and socially for so many people. This, coupled with other external factors such as stress and financial strain have contributed to making violence in homes more frequent, more severe and more dangerous; and

**WHEREAS**, healthy families are indispensable to a stable community, and they should be a place of support to instill responsibility and values in the next generation; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is a serious public health and safety concern, requiring a coordinated community response of partnerships that must be formed among criminal and civil justice agencies, healthcare providers, allied professionals, and victim service providers;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Wake County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim October 2020, as **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH** and urges the residents of our community, and communities across the country, to work together to break the cycle of violence in our community to rebuild lives and help secure safer futures for the victims of these types of violence.

**ADOPTED** this the 5th day of October 2020.

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Gregory D. Ford, Chair  
Wake County Board of Commissioners