

**Item Title:** Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Wake County Board of Commissioners receives a brief presentation from InterAct and proclaims the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.**

**Item Summary:**

Since 1995, October has been observed as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This designation provides an opportunity to raise awareness regarding this issue, show support for the many affected by domestic violence, and recognize the community agencies that provide essential services to victims.

Domestic violence affects people of all races, ages, gender, and income levels. National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) statistics indicate an average of 20 individuals per minute experience some form of domestic violence in the United States. Further, a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study published in 2015, finds over ten million women and men in the US experience some form of physical violence each year by a current or former intimate partner. Beyond the immediate impact, victims of domestic violence often experience longer-term adverse health consequences. The study reports many victims develop acute psychological issues, often engage in alcohol abuse, and are more likely to smoke.

Despite the staggering statistics, incidents of domestic violence are widely believed to be under-reported due to the stigma attached to such events. Unfortunately, without proper intervention, domestic violence incidents can result in death. The most recent NC Department of Justice report on domestic violence published in 2013 noted 108 domestic violence involved homicides statewide, eight of which were within Wake County. Just one year prior in 2012, Wake County had the highest number of domestic violence-related homicides of any County in North Carolina.

Domestic violence is a complex and serious issue. Local partner organizations, such as InterAct, provide safety, awareness, and support to victims and survivors of domestic violence. In 2009, InterAct opened its new headquarters - the Family Safety and Empowerment Center in Raleigh. This location also houses additional partner organizations. Collectively they offer enhanced wrap-around services to victims and survivors of violence and abuse.

**Attachments:**

1. Proclamation