

## **Proclamation**

### **“Domestic Violence Awareness Month” October 2023**

**Whereas**, one in three women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime; one in every four women will experience sexual assault in her lifetime; and one in seven men have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime; and,

**Whereas**, approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year; and 7 million children live in families in which severe intimate partner violence occurred; and,

**Whereas**, domestic violence incidents increased by 8.1% nationwide during the COVID pandemic; and,

**Whereas**, in 2021 45 individuals were murdered in Colorado by an intimate partner and there were an additional 14 collateral fatalities during domestic violence incidents including four children; and,

**Whereas**, domestic violence is a serious crime that affects people of all races, ages, gender, and income levels; and,

**Whereas**, the crimes of domestic and sexual violence violate an individual’s privacy, dignity, security, and humanity due to the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, and economic control and/or abuse; and,

**Whereas**, victims of violence should have access to medical and legal services, counseling, emergency and transitional housing, and other supportive services so that they can safely escape the cycle of abuse; and,

**Whereas**, we encourage domestic and sexual violence victims and their families to seek assistance from appropriate victims’ services organizations such as the dedicated systems and non-profit based victim advocates in Adams County; and,

**Whereas**, the 17th Judicial District Domestic Violence High Risk Team, state coalitions, national organizations, and other agencies nationwide are committed to increasing public awareness of domestic and sexual violence and its prevalence, and to eliminating it through prevention and education; and,

**Whereas**, important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, healthcare providers, allied professionals, and victim services to assist victims of domestic and sexual violence and their families; and,

**Whereas**, Adams County, Colorado, has a moral obligation to work to prevent domestic violence, address its brutal and destructive effects and make ending domestic violence a local priority.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that the Board of Commissioners, of the County of Adams, State of Colorado, proclaims October 2023 as

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and urges all residents to actively support first responders, victim of crime and their service providers in our community, to work towards the elimination of domestic violence and sexual assault.

*In witness whereof, we have set our hands and caused the seal of the county to be affixed October 31, 2023.*