

# *PROCLAMATION*

## City of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is a serious crime that is a willful and systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It affects people of every age, race, socio-economic status, religion, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity as more than half of transgender people have experienced some form of intimate partner violence; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence manifests in many forms, including physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, psychological, financial, technological abuse, stalking, and coercive control; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is widespread and accounts for significant loss of life, including 12 lives taken in Mecklenburg County in 2020, to date. It affects over ten million Americans each year; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men have experienced severe physical violence, sexual violence, and/or stalking committed by an intimate partner and given the thousands of domestic violence incidents reported every year in Mecklenburg County, our community is home to a powerful number of survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, children who are exposed to domestic violence are at greater risk for developing physical and mental health problems, entering abusive relationships as adults, or replicating abusive behaviors as adults, and survivors of domestic violence often experience trauma that can last a lifetime and span generations; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence costs the nation billions of dollars annually in medical expenses, police, court costs, shelters, foster care, sick leave, absenteeism, and non-productivity; and

**WHEREAS**, a coordinated effort can help slow this epidemic in our community and bring relief to its victims. Our community offers a continuum of care to support and empower victims and survivors as they seek out safety, hope, and healing. This continuum of care includes nonprofit, for-profit, and public partners together with survivor-led grassroots organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, communities nationwide recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October and this month would provide an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn about preventing domestic violence, to show support for the organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services, and assistance to victims and to help raise awareness of these services in an effort to extend a life line to survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, a Domestic Violence Survivors Day would create a unique opportunity to recognize, honor, and celebrate the courage of victims and survivors in Mecklenburg County as survivors are a testament to the resilience of the human spirit.

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE**, Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor of the City of Charlotte, and George Dunlap, Chair of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 2020 and October 15, respectively, as

### **“DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH” & “DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS DAY”**

in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and commend its observance to all citizens.

**WITNESS OUR HANDS** and the official Seals of the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

*Vi Alexander Lyles*  
Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor  
City of Charlotte



*George R. Dunlap*  
George Dunlap, Chair  
Mecklenburg Board of County  
Commissioners

