



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

COOK COUNTY RECOGNIZES OCTOBER 2020 AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, October is nationally known as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and a time to uplift the experiences and resilience of survivors, as well as educate and support households experiencing this hardship; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pattern of physical and psychological abuse, threats, intimidation, isolation, or economic coercion used by one person to exert power and control over another person in the context of a dating, familial, or household relationship; and

WHEREAS, intimate partner violence can happen to anyone at any point in a relationship, and affects people of all ages as well as all racial, ethnic, gender, economic, and religious backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, women are disproportionately victims of domestic violence, as 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men ages 18 and older will experience domestic violence at some point in their life; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 37.7% of women in Illinois 37.7% and 25.7% of men in Illinois experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, a June 2020 report from The Network indicated that there were 2,458 domestic violence related incidents documented by the Cook County Sheriff's Office in 2019 alone; and

WHEREAS, according to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, approximately 40% of Black women and 34.4% of Latina women will endure domestic violence at some point in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Black women experience intimate partner violence at a rate 35% higher than that of white females, and about 2.5 times the rate of women of other races and are less likely than white women to use social services, battered women's programs, or go to the hospital because of domestic violence, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Feminist Majority Foundation; and

WHEREAS, 63% of victimized Latinas experience multiple acts of victimization, Latino victims are less likely to tell health care workers, and Latino victims report seeking local shelters less than women from other ethnic/racial groups due to language barriers and fear of immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, noncitizen victims of domestic violence report heightened concerns with accessing law enforcement and services due to uncertainty arising from changing immigration policies and heightened immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ domestic violence victims face barriers unique to their status, such as lack of access to domestic violence shelters, according to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs; and

WHEREAS, during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we acknowledge the progress made in this field and embrace the basic human right to be free from violence and abuse, and recognize that more work remains until every individual is

able to live free from fear; and

WHEREAS, this month, we recognize the unique circumstances faced by survivors and individuals facing domestic violence due to the public health crisis of COVID-19 and the negative impact it has had on the delivery of social services and access to resources; and

WHEREAS, according to the Nation Coalition Against Domestic Violence, domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 21,000 calls a day, an average of close to 15 calls every minute; and

WHEREAS, victims of domestic violence who worked with advocates experienced less violence over time, reported higher quality of life and social support, and had less difficulty obtaining community resources over time, according to the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to increase-not reduce-funding for programs aimed at intervening in and preventing domestic violence in Cook County and throughout the United States; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners commends domestic violence victim advocates, victim service providers, crisis hotline staff and first responders for their compassionate support of survivors of domestic violence, and commits to continuing to raise awareness of domestic violence and the corresponding devastating effects of domestic violence on survivors, families, and communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners officially recognizes October 2020 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and call on the Cook County community to reaffirm their commitment to speaking out against domestic violence, assist victims in finding the help and healing they need, and work collaboratively to ending domestic violence in our community.