

# OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS KALB, MCELHANEY, & THAO

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## **RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2020 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Oakland, California seeks to enhance public welfare and promote justice for all citizens by declaring that the protection against domestic violence is a fundamental human right; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is a global problem, with millions of annual incidents in the United States alone; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence affects people of all ages, as well as racial, ethnic, gender, economic, and religious backgrounds, though women make up a disproportionately higher number of domestic violence victims; and

**WHEREAS**, survivors of domestic violence must deal with the effects of physical injuries, long-term psychological damage, financial instability, difficulty securing employment, and trouble finding safe housing; and

**WHEREAS**, in many cases, traumatized children are the silent victims in homes where domestic violence occurs and this trauma has detrimental impacts upon a child's cognitive and emotional development, significantly increasing an exposed child's risk for behavioral problems during their childhood as well as the potential for becoming an abuser or engaging in criminal violence as an adult; and

**WHEREAS**, the Domestic Violence Unit of the Oakland Police Department (OPD) is one of the highest volume investigative units within OPD's Criminal Investigation Division even though nearly half of all domestic abuse are never reported to the police; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland receives thousands of reports of domestic violence offenses annually with hundreds involving weapons; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence can escalate to loss of life; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence survivors and their loved ones should be encouraged to speak out to make sure that their abusers are held accountable and to help break the cycle of violence;

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence programs in the City of Oakland, including some Oakland Unite programs, provide vital services to families, including crisis hotlines, emergency shelter, support programs for children and teenagers, public education, intervention and legal advocacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alameda County Family Justice Center works collaboratively with the Oakland Police Department to coordinate efforts for victims, ensure appropriate case management, and share best practices, including direct training of OPD officers; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** by the Oakland City Council that:

1. The City of Oakland recognizes October 2020 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month;
2. The City Council encourages community members to learn about the resources available for victims of domestic violence and help hotlines where victims or witnesses of domestic violence can report such crimes.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES -

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

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LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of  
the City of Oakland, California