

FORSYTH COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BRIEFING DRAFT

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH AND THE ANTICIPATED OPENING OF THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER OF FORSYTH COUNTY PROVIDING SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

The month of October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Forsyth County has assumed leadership in the establishment of coordinating the opening of the Family Justice Center by upfitting the physical space for the center, establishing, sustaining and maintaining partnerships with community based organizations, planning and implementing service delivery plans for impactful outcomes of survivors, training services providers and educating community members on the dynamics of interpersonal violence and resources available for crisis intervention, prevention, and optimum healing after trauma.

Respectfully submitted to the Board for its consideration is a resolution to recognize the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and support the mission and vision of the Family Justice Center's efforts to raise awareness of domestic violence and other co-occurring forms of interpersonal violence. This resolution challenges individuals, educational institutions, faith communities, service providers, criminal and civil courts, law enforcement agencies, youth serving and nonprofit organizations to work collaboratively to explore solutions for prevention, intervention, and sustainable outcomes for families experiencing domestic violence.

ATTACHMENTS: YES NO

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
COUNTY MANAGER

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER
AS NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
AND THE ANTICIPATED OPENING OF THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER OF
FORSYTH COUNTY PROVIDING SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR
VICTIMS OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE**

WHEREAS the month of October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and affects all people regardless of age, sex, gender, race, ethnicity, ability, religion, and socioeconomic background in Forsyth County;

WHEREAS domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence (IPV) consists of a pattern of learned behavior resulting in the use of power and control of one person over a partner and/or other family members;

WHEREAS tactics may include physical, emotional, psychological, sexual or financial abuse, including isolation from family, friends, and support systems;

WHEREAS domestic violence is a public health issue and according to the Centers for Disease Control, the health-related costs of intimate partner rape, physical assault, and stalking exceed \$5.8 billion each year, with nearly \$4.1 billion for direct medical and mental health services;

WHEREAS the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Women's Health, reports that more than 15 million children in the United States live in homes in which domestic violence has happened at least once, leaving these children at greater risk for repeating the cycle as adults by entering into abusive relationships or becoming abusers themselves;

WHEREAS the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence identifies 36 homicides statewide as domestic violence related through July 26, 2020, including victims from 8 months to 93 years of age, and a year end total of 57 domestic violence related homicides identified for 2019;

WHEREAS in Forsyth County, 1057 complaints for Domestic Violence Protective Orders were filed in 2019, and 712 have been filed from January 1 through August 31 of 2020;

WHEREAS Forsyth County communities are encouraged to support individuals experiencing all forms of family/intimate partner violence; and

WHEREAS the Family Justice Center Model of co-located services is identified as a best practice in the field of domestic violence intervention and prevention services with documented outcomes of reduced homicides, increased victim safety, and increased autonomy and empowerment for victims;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners challenges individuals, educational institutions, employers, faith communities, service providers, criminal and civil courts, governmental leaders, law enforcement agencies, youth serving, and nonprofit organizations to explore collaborative solutions for prevention, intervention, and sustainable outcomes for families experiencing domestic violence.

Adopted this 24th day of September 2020.

