

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Proclamation

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, the vision for Arlington County is one in which Arlington is a peaceful and respectful community- where diversity is celebrated, violence is not tolerated and where all people are empowered to build healthy relationships free from the fear, or threat of, all forms of intimate partner and sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, as a community, Arlington is dedicated to addressing the issue of domestic, dating, and intimate partner violence-ensuring those who have been harmed by an intimate partner are offered timely, appropriate support services; and deserve compassion, comfort, and healing they need, and those who have caused harm are held accountable and offered the support services they need to address their use of violence and force; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious crime that affects people of all races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and income levels in the community; and in Arlington County every day at least two residents reach out to crisis support services related to a domestic violence incident; and

WHEREAS, the crime of domestic violence violates 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, domestic violence is widespread and can impact entire families; children that grow up in violent homes are abused and neglected at a rate higher than the national average and during the Coronavirus public health crisis those needing support services are more isolated and in need of more support than ever before; and

WHEREAS, under the umbrella of Project PEACE, important partnerships thrive among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, healthcare providers, allied professionals, and victim advocacy services to assist victims of domestic violence and their families and enhance our community's response; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about the impact of domestic violence in our community and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victims; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Matt de Ferranti, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim **October 2021**, as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in Arlington County, to honor those who have lost their lives, celebrate those who survived, and encourage everyone in our community to join our efforts to end domestic violence.



Matt de Ferranti
Chair