

Proclamation

WHEREAS domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors used by someone to maintain power and control in an intimate or family relationship; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence encompasses not only physical abuse, but also emotional, verbal, financial, sexual, or digital abuse, isolation, and/or stalking; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence disproportionately impacts racial and ethnic minorities, undocumented people, women, trans and gender non-conforming people, and disabled people; and

WHEREAS, racism, sexism, xenophobia, transphobia, ableism, and other forms of oppression and discrimination perpetuate domestic violence and make seeking safety and stability more difficult for marginalized survivors; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, on average nearly 20 people per minute are abused by an intimate partner in the United States which equates to more than 10 million people; and

WHEREAS, in North Carolina, according to the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, at least 73 individuals were murdered by a current or former intimate partner in 2023 and at least 63 have been murdered so far in 2024; and

WHEREAS, at least two Orange County residents have been murdered so far this year by a current or former intimate partner or family member; and

WHEREAS, Compass Center, the state-designated domestic violence service provider for Orange County, serves more than 1,300 survivors of domestic violence each year through its 24-hour domestic violence crisis line, support groups, court and community advocacy, Latinx programs, career and financial counseling, and other services and engages thousands more in prevention education and outreach; and

WHEREAS, Compass Center has collaborated with numerous local agencies over the last two years to bring the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) Program to Orange County, which trains first responders to screen for lethality risk factors and directly connect highest-risk victims to Compass Center, and is now receiving on-scene referrals from LAP-trained officers with the Orange County Sheriff's Office, Chapel Hill PD, Carrboro PD, and Hillsborough PD; and

WHEREAS, preventing domestic violence requires the collective awareness, care, and action of individuals, institutions, and systems to transform our communities through social norms, policies, and laws that reject violence and abuse and promote healthy relationships based on respect, trust, and equity.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Mayor and Town Council of Chapel Hill, do hereby proclaim October 2024 to be:

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

in Chapel Hill and encourage the residents of Orange County to observe this time in ways appropriate to its importance and significance.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF
CHAPEL HILL, ON THIS THE EIGHTH DAY OF OCTOBER
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR.

