

Proclamation

Domestic Violence Awareness Month October 2016

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior that a person uses against an intimate or former partner; the abuser uses fear and intimidation to gain power and control over another person; the abuse can take many forms, including emotional, economic, and sexual abuse and it may involve using children, pets, threats, intimidation, and isolation; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence remains a devastating public health crisis when one in four women will be physically or sexually assaulted by a partner at some point in her lifetime; and

WHEREAS, when a family member is abused, it can have long-term damaging effects on the victim that also leaves a mark on family, friends, and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, children exposed to domestic violence without needed intervention are at a higher risk to fail in school, develop emotional disorders, substance abuse, and/or perpetrate violent behavior later in life; and

WHEREAS, the problem of domestic violence is not confined to any group or groups of people, but rather crosses all economic, racial, gender, educational, religious, and societal barriers, and is sustained by societal indifference; and

WHEREAS, victims of violence should have access to medical and legal services, counseling, emergency and transitional housing, and other supportive services so that they can escape the cycle of abuse; and

WHEREAS, the organization, A Safe Place, has served victims of domestic violence in Alameda County for over 35 years; and

WHEREAS, the Mission of A Safe Place, is to end domestic violence by providing battered victims and their children with safe shelter and resources to aid in breaking the cycle of violence through outreach and education for at risk populations and diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County Domestic Violence Service Advocates provides more than 45,000 client services annually including crisis response calls, requests for legal services and representations, emergency shelter, transitional housing and housing placement, and counseling services county-wide;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dianne Martinez, Mayor of the City of Emeryville on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim October, 2016 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in the City of Emeryville, as we stand together to protect survivors, bring offenders to justice, and highlight the importance of combating domestic violence in our community and to help build a culture of safety and support for all those affected.

PROCLAIMED this 20th Day of September, 2016 at a regular meeting of the City Council, by the Mayor of the City of Emeryville.

MAYOR DIANNE MARTINEZ