



# Solano County

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## Legislation Text

File #: 20-700, Version: 1

Adopt and present a resolution recognizing October 2020 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Solano County (Chairwoman Hannigan)

Published Notice Required? Yes ☐ No ☒  
Public Hearing Required? Yes ☐ No ☒

### **DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION:**

The District Attorney's Office recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt and present a resolution recognizing October 2020 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Solano County.

### **SUMMARY:**

In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness month was observed. This month has since been set aside to raise public awareness about the prevalence and cost of domestic violence, the need for prevention, and the availability of services for victims of abuse. The Department recognizes the need to raise public awareness and to reduce children's exposure to violence and therefore recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt and present a resolution recognizing October 2020 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month."

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no cost to adopt and present the Resolution. The costs associated with preparing the agenda item are nominal and absorbed by the department's FY2020/21 Adopted Budget. The costs associated with preparation and purchase of the resolution materials are included in the Board's FY2020/21 Adopted Budget.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Somewhere in America a woman is battered, usually by her intimate partner, every 9 seconds. Domestic violence is not a private matter; it is a crime. It is one of the most common, yet least reported, crimes in the United States. It can happen to anyone, of any profession, education level, economic status, age, race or religion. It occurs at the same rate in gay and lesbian relationships as it does in heterosexual relationships. Although not as common, violence against men by women also exists. Batterers not only hurt their partners, but their children as well. Estimates show that child abuse is 15 times more likely to occur in families where domestic violence is present. Children who witness domestic violence often grow up believing that physical cruelty in relationships is acceptable behavior, and thus they tend to perpetuate a cycle of violence in their own relationships. More than 3 million children are at risk of exposure to intimate partner violence each year.

October 2020 marks the 34<sup>th</sup> commemoration of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Agencies and organizations from across America will encourage support and understanding from all Americans and will commemorate victims of domestic violence and those who serve them.

Progress against domestic violence relies heavily on public awareness and changing community attitudes. Solano County's network of victim service agencies work to ease the physical and emotional pain inflicted on victims of domestic violence, collaborate to raise awareness to put an end to this abusive behavior, and

educate the public with which they have contact on family violence prevention strategies designed to break cycles of violence. The Solano Family Justice Center, as part of the Office of Family Violence Prevention, is a model program designed to reduce barriers for victims seeking services, recognizes the efforts of all professionals working with domestic violence victims and survivors. These agencies are working to ease the physical and emotional pain inflicted on victims of domestic violence and are collaborating to raise awareness to put an end to this abusive behavior. We honor Domestic Violence Awareness Month by promoting peace in our own families, homes, and communities. Let us renew our commitment to end domestic violence - in every corner of Solano County.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

The Board of Supervisors could choose to:

- 1) Not adopt the resolution; however, this alternative is not recommended as the resolution recognizes local efforts which are consistent with the Board's mission; and/or
- 2) Proclaim another month as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month; however, this alternative is not recommended since the month of October 2020 has been nationally designated as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:**

The District Attorney's Office of Family Violence Prevention and Solano Family Justice Center work collaboratively with and recognize the efforts of the District Attorney's Office Victim Witness Unit, Solano Partnership Against Violence, the Fairfield Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit, Fighting Back Partnership, SafeQuest Solano, Travis Air Force Base's Family Advocacy Office, Kaiser Permanente's Family Violence Prevention Team, the Vacaville Police Department FIRST Office, Solano Advocates for Victims of Violence (SAVV), and Solano County Health & Social Services who serve the county, and many others that serve families affected by domestic violence.

### **CAO RECOMMENDATION:**

**APPROVE DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION**