



PROCLAMATION

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH 2020

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a prevalent social problem that not only harms the victim, but also negatively affects the victim's family, including child witnesses, friends and community at large; and,

WHEREAS, domestic violence knows no boundaries; it exists in all neighborhoods and cities, and affects people of all ages, racial, ethnic, economic, and religious backgrounds; and,

WHEREAS, one in four women and one in seven men will experience domestic violence sometime in their lifetime. In Illinois alone, there are approximately 115,000 – 125,000 domestic crimes each year; and

WHEREAS, the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (ACT) provides workplace protections specifically for victims of domestic or sexual violence, as for many victims, abuse experience at home often follows them to the workplace; and

WHEREAS, the health related costs of rape, physical assault, stalking and homicide by intimate partners' amounts to over \$6 Billion every year, and the annual cost of lost productivity in the workplace due to domestic violence is estimated to over \$800 million annually, with nearly 8 million paid workdays lost per year; and,

WHEREAS, only a coordinated community response will help to end domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Sarah's Inn, a local domestic violence agency, serves over 10,000 individuals annually through its mission to improve the lives of those affected by domestic violence and to break the cycle of domestic violence for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Sarah's Inn, together with their network of supporters, volunteers, and community and professional partners, works to accomplish their mission through comprehensive intervention services for victims and their families, violence prevention programs that educate children and adolescents on healthy relationships, and trainings to create a skilled network of community advocates to ensure an appropriate community response to violence; and

THEREFORE, I, Catherine M. Adduci, President of the Village Board of Trustees of River Forest, do hereby proclaim October 2020 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, to raise awareness about the issues related to domestic violence and the effects on families and communities, and to urge all community members to learn how to take action this month by partnering with Sarah's Inn, and to urge all victims to seek help by calling Sarah's Inn's 24-hour crisis line, 1-708-386-4225 or visiting their office.

IN WITNESS, THEREOF, I have hereto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the seal of the Village of River Forest, this 12th day of October 2020.

By:

Catherine M. Adduci, President
Village of River Forest