



City of Winston-Salem

Proclamation

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

- WHEREAS:** Domestic violence is a pattern of coercion in intimate relationships where one person uses violence to gain power and control over a partner and/or other family members; and
- WHEREAS:** Domestic violence is a crime that violates the individuals' dignity, humanity, privacy, and security through systematic control and abuse; and
- WHEREAS:** Domestic violence may include emotional, mental, physical, sexual, financial, or psychological abuse and/ or violence; and
- WHEREAS:** The national health-related cost of rape, physical assault, stalking, and homicides committed by intimate partners exceeds \$5.8 billion each year; and
- WHEREAS:** People of all ages, races, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic backgrounds are vulnerable to domestic abuse; and
- WHEREAS:** According to the Centers for Disease Control, nearly one in four women and one in ten men in the United States have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetimes; and
- WHEREAS:** The City of Winston-Salem is committed to taking a firm position against domestic violence and will remain focused on ensuring that all people are safe in their homes and that abusers are held accountable for their crimes; and
- WHEREAS:** With many agencies, departments, and survivors working together to promote awareness including through the Bridges to Hope Family Justice Center of Forsyth County, we can protect the vulnerable, stop the violence, restore hope, and make our community safer for everyone.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, J. ALLEN JOINES, Mayor of the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 2021 to be:

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in Winston-Salem and encourage all residents to show support for survivors of domestic violence and to actively participate in efforts to end violence in their homes, schools, and communities.

Given under my hand and seal this 18th day of October 2021.

J. ALLEN JOINES

Mayor