

Resolution Number 141

Whereas, the month of October has been designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month; all over the country battered victims' advocates, government officials, corporations, unions, health care providers, and faith-based groups will participate in activities and events to raise national consciences about domestic violence; and

Whereas, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence created Domestic Violence Awareness Day in October 1981; the goal was to bring together advocates working to end violence against women and children; the first observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month took place in 1987, and was subsequently endorsed by Congress in 1989; every October since then, the issue of domestic violence has been highlighted in local and national venues all over the country; and

Whereas, although anyone can become a victim of domestic violence or intimate partner violence (IPV), women are still more likely to experience IPV than men; people from all economic and cultural backgrounds can be subjected to domestic violence; and

Whereas, sadly, children are often the direct or indirect victims; just witnessing violence impacts children's lives, especially as it usually takes place at home, a place where children should feel safe; if children have been exposed to domestic violence, it increases the chances that they will take on the role of either a "batterer" or a "victim" in their adult relationships; abuse can seem "normal" to youth who witness it in their own homes; and

Whereas, often alcohol and illicit drugs play a part in domestic violence; the link between substance abuse and violence has been clearly documented in numerous studies; partner history of alcohol and drug abuse is a strong risk factor for domestic violence; violent behavior can also interfere with treatment for substance abuse and substance abuse can impede interventions to change violent behavior; drugs or alcohol can impair both the batterer's and victim's ability to make sane and safe choice;. substance abuse can distort communication, aggravate resentments, and exacerbate tempers; and

Whereas, in 2005, the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department received more than 23,000 domestic disturbance calls, which represents an increase of approximately 1,000 calls over 2004; in addition, the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department reported more than 4,000 domestic violence crimes in 2005; and

Whereas, based on the 2000 Census, St. Louis had approximately 107,000 women over 20 years of age and 100,000 children from 0-19 years of age living within the City's borders; based on the estimate that more than 50% of women are battered during their lives, approximately 53,500 women residing in the City of St. Louis are at risk;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month and we direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 27th day of October, 2006 by:

Honorable James F. Shrewsbury, President of the Board of Aldermen

Adopted this the 27th day of October, 2006 as attested by:

Patrick J. Connaghan
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

James F. Shrewsbury
President, Board of Aldermen