



PROCLAMATION | **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, we have citizens and neighbors who have survived domestic violence, who are still experiencing abuse, and who have lost their lives to this critical community issue, the City of Auburn recognizes October as **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**.

WHEREAS, in the last year, Safe Voices has served over 2,300 individual survivors of abuse, trafficking, and exploitation, including over 1,000 in Androscoggin County and over 250 in Auburn; and

WHEREAS, the effects of domestic violence are far-reaching, directly affecting individual survivors as well as our community at large; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence at home is an indicator of risk to the broader community, often escalating to include violence outside the home; and

WHEREAS, roughly half of all homicides annually in the state of Maine are attributed to domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that domestic violence must be addressed by a community as a whole, as a community safety issue, and with survivor-centered responses; and

WHEREAS, we remind domestic violence survivors that they are not alone, and urge them to seek aid from the local Safe Voices helpline (800-559-2927) or the statewide helpline (866-834-HELP).

AND WHEREAS, we urge all local citizens to embrace this month of action by participating in activities and programs sponsored by Safe Voices and other community organizations working toward the elimination of intimate partner violence.

NOW THEREFORE, I Jeffrey Harmon, Mayor of the City of Auburn, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim October 2024 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of Auburn.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Auburn, Maine to be fixed this 7th day of October, 2024.

Mayor Jeffrey D. Harmon