

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 10-0847

Recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Introduced by Councilmember Hancock

WHEREAS, Denver Metro Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee data indicates that at least 49 people died in Colorado in 2009 as a result of domestic violence, eight in Denver, up from five in 2008; and

WHEREAS, based on the estimate that one in four women are victims of domestic violence at some point, over 278,000 women in Denver may be in need of domestic violence services for themselves and their children; and according to the District Attorney and Denver Police Department, nearly 4,000 domestic violence cases are processed through Denver courts annually; and

WHEREAS, SafeHouse Denver was established in October 1977 as an emergency shelter for battered women and children and extended its programming in 1993 to include non-residential counseling, group support, advocacy services and community education; and SafeHouse Denver remains the only agency in the City & County of Denver that provides both emergency shelter and non-residential services, handling over 15,000 calls to its 24-hour Crisis & Information Line and providing services to over 1,200 women, children and youth annually; and

WHEREAS, Denver's nationally-recognized "Triage" project, a collaboration of the District Attorney, City Attorney, Denver Police Department's Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance units, the Denver Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, SafeHouse Denver, Project Safeguard and many others, has the goals of improving victim safety and offender accountability through stronger partnerships to ensure the most collaborative and effective response to domestic violence; and to establish a Domestic Violence Center to bring together in one place a comprehensive array of service providers; and

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the "Day of Unity" observed on the first Monday of October by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence in 1981; the U.S. Congress officially designated October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1989.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council hereby recognizes October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month; commends the work of all of the agencies and organizations focused on serving the needs of domestic violence victims and to reduce the numbers of lives involved in the traumas brought about by domestic violence; and encourages anyone in a violent domestic situation to seek help.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Victoria McVicker, Chief Executive Officer, SafeHouse Denver.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL _____ 2010

PRESIDENT