

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS AND
CHAIR SHEILA KUEHL

October 2, 2018

Domestic Violence Awareness Month: October 2018

Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the "Day of Unity" held in October 1981. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence established the event with the purpose of mourning those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence. In 1989, the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October of that year as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The LA County Board of Supervisors has similarly recognized October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month for years.

Domestic violence impacts everyone, including men, women, children and the LGBTQ community. Crimes that disproportionately affect women include sexual violence—rape and aggravated assault. These violent acts are often inflicted by an intimate partner or family member in a domestic context. The 2017 Report on the Status of Women in Los Angeles County indicated that more than 41,000 domestic-violence related calls for assistance were made in 2015. As a result of such targeted violence,

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SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

KUEHL _____

women may become isolated, unable to work and to care for themselves and their children. Moreover, in 2016, approximately 18% of the homeless population included women who were victims of domestic violence. Meanwhile, the number of children placed in foster care due to domestic violence remains a significant concern to advocates and families alike. As a County, we must continue to raise awareness about domestic violence, prevent it from happening, and encourage individuals impacted by it to access resources and report its occurrence. Together, these steps will create a safer and healthier Los Angeles County for all.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim the month of October "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in the County of Los Angeles; and
2. Urge all residents, public officials and County employees, as well as community groups, schools, clubs and organizations to take action to raise awareness about domestic violence, and prevent and report it in Los Angeles County.

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