DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH

OCTOBER 2026

WHEREAS, Domestic violence, which can include physical, mental, sexual, emotional, and financial abuse, is a means of intimidation and violence to influence, violate, and control a partner involved in an intimate relationship; and,

WHEREAS, An average of 24 people per minute experience rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States, more than 12 million people over the course of a single year; and,

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a serious public health issue that results in billions of dollars spent annually in medical, mental health, and lost work productivity costs; and,

WHEREAS, The problems of domestic violence are not confined to any specific groups of people and can happen to anyone regardless of identity and experience; and,

WHEREAS, Intersecting layers of vulnerability due to race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, religion/spirituality, citizenship status, and spoken language, make it easier for abusers to isolate, control, and create and sustain power over survivors with marginalized identities; and,

WHEREAS, Children who grow up witnessing domestic violence in their homes are deeply impacted and are more likely to have trouble in school, more likely to perpetuate and be victimized by violence themselves, and more likely to experience long-term mental and physical health challenges; and,

WHEREAS, Survivors should have help to find the compassion, comfort, and healing they need, and abusers should be held accountable for their violent behavior; and,

WHEREAS, We know there is hope; partners at the Buncombe County Family Justice Center collaborate to offer a safe location for survivors of domestic violence to receive forensic medical exams, assistance creating safety plans, case management, counseling, and legal support in one location; and,

WHEREAS, Our combined prevention efforts work at the root causes of domestic violence by addressing the systems that perpetuate community attitudes and individual patterns of belief, thought, and behavior that sustain abuse; and,

WHEREAS, Survivors of abuse have been at the forefront of advocacy efforts; and,

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness Month is an opportunity to stand with survivors, to celebrate progress in combating these crimes, and to recommit to preventing domestic violence in our community by working together to build safer communities for all,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners proclaims **October 2026** as **Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness Month,** and we urge our residents to make the commitment to stop domestic violence by speaking out against it and learning more about the resources available to survivors and their families.

This 6th day of October, 2026.

Amanda Edwards

Amanda Edwards, Chair
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners