

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a major public concern for our State and Nation and is now the single largest cause of injury to women; and

WHEREAS, all persons have a basic right to feel safe from harm, especially in their homes, yet more than 1,100 domestic violence calls were made to law enforcement officers in St. Johns County last year; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence affects people of all ages, racial, socioeconomic, educational religious, and occupational segments of our society, especially children; and

WHEREAS, children from violent homes are physically abused or seriously neglected at a rate significantly higher than the national average and have greater risks of alcohol/drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, cognitive and developmental problems as well as fear, anxiety and guilt; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is not a private family matter but a crime, the consequences of which reach with devastating effect on the communities, schools, and workplaces of our nation; and

WHEREAS, perpetrators of domestic violence must be held accountable for their crimes; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence represents a pattern of assault and coercive behavior that will escalate in frequency and severity if intervention does not occur,

WHEREAS, domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security and humanity; and

WHEREAS, public awareness and education about domestic violence and needed as well as uniform efforts on the part of government, health professionals, law enforcement, religious organizations, educators, and community associations to address domestic violence through prevention, intervention, and treatment for victims and perpetrators.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, the City of St. Augustine Beach does hereby designate the month of October 2020 as **Violence Awareness Month** in the City of St. Augustine Beach and remember that each day of the year is an opportunity to create change for the future.

PASSED AND ADOPTED in regular session this 5th day of October 2020.

ATTEST:

Max Royle, City Manager

Margaret England, Mayor