

- WHEREAS:** On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused during domestic violence incidents in the United States. One in three women and one in nine men experience some form of severe domestic related physical violence within his or her lifetime; and
- WHEREAS:** Domestic violence is one of the most prevalent crimes in the United States, with many cases going unreported; and
- WHEREAS:** Domestic violence crosses all economic, racial, gender, educational, religious, and societal barriers; and
- WHEREAS:** Each year, since 1976, about 30 percent of all female murder victims are killed by their intimate partner. As of 2010, Georgia ranked 15th in the nation for domestic violence related homicides; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2019, Savannah Police responded to 3,448 domestic disturbance calls, including 347 aggravated assaults, 19 aggravated battery cases stemming from domestic violence and 8 domestic-related homicides; and
- WHEREAS:** From January 1 to September 17, 2020, SAFE Shelter Center Domestic Violence Services in Savannah received 1,302 crisis calls and provided services to 957 domestic violence victims, including 159 children and provided victims with 64 Temporary Protective Orders; and
- WHEREAS:** Since 1979, SAFE Shelter has been Savannah’s only shelter dedicated to victims of family violence and their children under the age of eighteen. Open 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, the Shelter provides safe, confidential services to all victims of domestic violence: and
- WHEREAS:** SAFE Shelter, Savannah Police Department, the Chatham County District Attorney’s Office, state coalitions, national organizations, and other agencies nationwide are committed to increasing public awareness of domestic violence and its prevalence and to eliminating it through prevention and education.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Van R. Johnson, II, Mayor of the City of Savannah, Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2020 as:

“DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH”

in Savannah and urge all citizens to actively support SAFE Shelter and the city of Savannah’s work towards the elimination of domestic violence.