

Staff Report

Subject: Domestic Violence Awareness Proclamation
Author: Stephanie Johnson, County Clerk
Department: Administration
Meeting Date: 10/01/2024
Item Description: Consideration to approve a proclamation to declare October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Summary Recommendation: Over the years the Board of Commissioners has supported and approved this proclamation for the Effingham County Victim Witness Assistance Program. Staff supports approval of the proclamation for 2024.

Executive Summary:

According to the website for the *Georgia Commission on Family Violence*, in 2023, Georgia had 163 domestic violence deaths: 92 victims, 27 bystanders, and 44 perpetrators. A firearm was the weapon used in 80% of the domestic violence deaths in Georgia.

Over the five-year period from 2018 to 2023, nearly 4 out of 5 primary victims killed in domestic violence incidents were women.

Most noteworthy, there was a **21.2% decline** in family violence incidents reported to law enforcement from 2019-2023. Additionally, in 2023, Georgia's certified family violence and sexual assault agencies answered 118,600 crisis calls, an **8% decrease** from 2022.

Effingham County Victim Witness Assistance Program requests that the Board of Commissioners proclaim the month of October as Effingham County Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. The Board approves to proclaim the month of October as Effingham County Domestic Violence Awareness Month
2. The Board does not approve to proclaim the month of October as Effingham County Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Funding Source

Attachment:

1. Proclamation