2026

EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PROCLAMATION

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

October 2026 • With Survivors Always

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pattern of abusive and coercive behavior that can include physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, technological, and financial abuse, and it threatens the safety, dignity, health, and independence of individuals and families in every community;

WHEREAS, survivors deserve to be heard, believed, protected, and connected to trauma-informed services that respect their choices and help them build lives free from violence;

WHEREAS, the Effingham County Victim Witness Assistance Program is the county's only local nonprofit agency devoted to advocacy and assistance for victims and witnesses of violent crime, serving Rincon, Guyton, Springfield, and surrounding communities while empowering clients to move toward safe, secure, healthy, and functional lives;

WHEREAS, Safe Haven provides critical domestic violence services for survivors and their children in Effingham County and the surrounding region, including crisis response, emergency shelter, safety planning, advocacy, supportive services, and connections to resources that promote long-term stability;

WHEREAS, together, the Effingham County Victim Witness Assistance Program and Safe Haven strengthen our community's response through direct assistance, coordinated referrals, education, outreach, and collaboration with law enforcement, the courts, health care providers, schools, faith communities, businesses, and other local partners;

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month honors the courage of survivors, remembers those whose lives have been lost, recognizes the professionals and volunteers who serve victims, and reminds every resident that preventing violence and supporting safety are shared community responsibilities;

WHEREAS, Effingham County joins communities across Georgia and the nation in affirming that domestic violence has no place in our homes or community and in standing with survivors—always;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Effingham County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the citizens of Effingham County, Georgia, hereby recognizes October 2026 as ***DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH*** and calls upon all residents to learn the signs of abuse, support survivors without judgment, share available resources, and join local efforts to build a community where every person can live safely and free from violence.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

_____

Damon Rahn

Chairman, Effingham County Board of Commissioners

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Stephanie Johnson

Attest County Clerk

Presented in partnership with the Effingham County Victim Witness Assistance Program and Safe Haven