



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Colorado criminal code defines domestic violence as: “an act or threatened act of violence against a person with whom the defendant has an intimate relationship, such as a current or former spouse, partner, co-habitant, or co-parent when the act is used to coerce, control, punish, intimidate, or seek revenge against that person;” and

**WHEREAS**, nationally one in four women and one in seven men have been victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetimes; 1 in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence; domestic violence is one of the leading causes of homelessness for women and children; and

**WHEREAS**, in Colorado, 36.8% of women and 30.5% of men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence, and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes; 15% of homicides in Colorado were committed by intimate partners; domestic violence statistics do not adequately represent our LGBTQ2+, People of Color, Black, and Indigenous communities, who face challenges that limit their ability to seek help when faced with domestic violence; and

**WHEREAS**, in Fort Collins and surrounds, Crossroads Safehouse (since 1980), Zonta Club of Fort Collins (since 1997), Zonta Club of Colorado North Forty (since 2018), and other local human and social services’ agencies, together with numerous volunteers, provide critical assistance and services to victims and their children including lifesaving crisis intervention, emergency shelter, safety planning, and advocacy and support; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fort Collins recognizes multiple efforts by our community partners to bring awareness to and serve our community to support victims of domestic violence. These annual efforts are: Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, and Zonta Says NO to Violence - 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence from November 25 to December 10.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jeni Arndt, Mayor of the City of Fort Collins, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2023, as

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

and urge citizens to join with Zonta Club of Fort Collins, Zonta Club of Colorado North Forty, and Crossroads Safehouse in support of efforts to end gender violence and to eliminate the detrimental consequences gender violence has on the well-being of our community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Fort Collins this 17th day of October, 2023.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk