# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, October is recognized as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month that first began in 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence as a Day of Unity to connect battered women's advocates across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is a pattern of physical, emotional, verbal, and/or sexual abuse, which includes, but is not limited to, threats, intimidation, isolation, and/or financial control; and

**WHEREAS,** domestic violence is an intentional pattern of behavior that is used by one person to harm and take power and control over another person in the context of a date, family, roommate, or caretaker relationship; and

**WHEREAS,** domestic violence is an epidemic affecting individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality; and

**WHEREAS,** 24 people per minute are victims of domestic violence – more than 12 million women and men over the course of a single year – and every 9 seconds in the United States, a woman is assaulted or beaten; and

**WHEREAS,** 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the United States are victims of domestic violence and 15.5 million children witness domestic violence each year; and

**WHEREAS,** survivors of domestic violence are more likely to experience mental health repercussions including being more likely to meet the criteria for PTSD; develop symptoms of depression or a major depressive disorder; engage in self-harming behaviors; have suicidal thoughts or attempt suicide; be diagnosed with an anxiety disorder; or have a substance use disorder; and

**WHEREAS,** only about half of domestic violence incidents are reported to law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Lake Forest Park remains committed to a professional response to incidents of domestic violence in our region.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lake Forest Park do hereby proclaim the month of October 2026 as

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Lake Forest Park and call upon all community members to speak out against domestic violence and support local efforts to assist victims of these crimes in finding the help and healing they need.

Signed this 8th day of October 2026

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Tom French, Mayor