



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** RES 21-1576, **Version:** 2

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Declaring October Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

WHEREAS the City Council of Saint Paul, Minnesota recognizes that living free from domestic violence is a fundamental human right; and

WHEREAS domestic violence affects women, children and men people of all races, sexual orientations and identities, spiritual beliefs, ages, educational backgrounds and economic conditions; and one out every three women in Minnesota will experience domestic violence in her their lifetime; and

WHEREAS domestic violence involves physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse, intimidation and isolation; and

WHEREAS domestic violence is a pattern of power and abuse used by a person to control and oppress another and that all forms and systems of oppression must be eliminated; and

WHEREAS in 2020, according to the Violence Free Minnesota Homicide Report, at least twenty women and one man in Minnesota were killed by a current or former intimate partner and almost half were killed with firearms; and

WHEREAS at least nine more Minnesotans who were friends, family or bystanders lost their lives during a domestic violence incident; and

WHEREAS of the nine, three of those who lost their lives were children; and

WHEREAS 16 minor children lost their mothers due to domestic violence, and

WHEREAS the City of Saint Paul's recognition as a national leader in ensuring all victims and their children are safe and dangerous perpetrators are held accountable for their violence is demonstrated by our history as being home of the very first domestic violence shelter in the nation, birthplace of the Saint Paul Blueprint for Safety which focuses on victim safety and accountability for people's violent behaviors while providing opportunities for change, the creation of Bridges to Safety which is a collaborative government and community-governed Victim Service Center and a multidisciplinary justice system model to prevent the use of firearms to harm victims and curtail the dangerous use of guns in our community; and

WHEREAS we as a community, from our first responders, community-based domestic violence programs, justice system workers, medical providers, educators, government systems, faith communities, businesses and community leaders and members, pay tribute to the lives and the courage of the victims we serve, and the impact and support we have found in our continued work together; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Saint Paul City Council declares October 2021 to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month.