



Legislation Text

File #: RES 15-1827, **Version:** 1

Declaring that freedom from domestic violence is a universal human right.

WHEREAS The City Council of Saint Paul, Minnesota seeks to enhance public welfare by declaring that freedom from domestic violence is a fundamental human right; and

WHEREAS Domestic Violence is a human rights concern that affects women, children and men of all races, sexual orientations, spiritual beliefs, ages, educational backgrounds and economic conditions; and

WHEREAS The United Nations, world leaders and leaders throughout the United States recognize that relationship violence is a human rights concern; and

WHEREAS Domestic violence takes many forms, including physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse, intimidation, isolation and coercive control by the perpetrators, and

WHEREAS Domestic violence dangerously impacts our community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days out of the year; and

WHEREAS Each year across the U.S., 1 in 4 women are beaten or raped by a partner during adulthood; 2.3 million people are raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend, and hundreds of lives are lost due to perpetrators' need to isolate, intimidate and control their victims; and

WHEREAS In the past two calendar years, at least 61 people in Minnesota have died due to domestic violence; and

WHEREAS Intimate partner violence is not an occasional loss of control or manifestation of anger; it is a pattern of abuse used by a person to control and oppress another.

WHEREAS The City of Saint Paul has been a leader in domestic violence response, including the implementation of the FLARE-UP Program, the creation of the Blue Print for Safety, the establishment of a collaboratively run Victim Service Center, and being home to the first battered women's shelter in the United States; and

WHEREAS In 2014, the St. Paul Police Department received an estimated 5,000 initial domestic crime 911-calls; greatly reduced over the past eight years by over 45% due to our ground-breaking, collaborative initiatives; and

WHEREAS The City of Saint Paul is determined in ensuring victims and their children are safe, and dangerous perpetrators are held accountable for their violence in our community; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Saint Paul recognizes domestic violence as a human rights concern and declares that the freedom from domestic violence is a fundamental human right; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this Resolution shall serve as a declaration to assure the citizens of the City that state and local governments bear a moral responsibility to secure this human right on behalf of their residents; and

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Saint Paul, in partnership with domestic violence programs, members of the justice system, community-based programs, faith communities, health providers, educators, other government entities and the community as a whole, will continue to secure this human right and move our collaborative efforts even further...until no one in our community lives in fear in their own homes and neighborhoods.