## **PROCLAMATION** City of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious crime that affects people of every age, race, socio-economic status, religion, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is widespread and affects over ten million Americans each year; and

WHEREAS, one in four women and one in nine men have experienced severe physical violence, sexual violence, and/or stalking committed by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, more than half of transgender people have experienced some form of intimate partner violence; and

WHEREAS, children who are exposed to domestic violence are at greater risk for developing physical and mental health problems, entering abusive relationships as adults, or replicating abusive behaviors as adults; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence costs the nation billions of dollars annually in medical expenses, police, court costs, shelters, foster care, sick leave, absenteeism, and non-productivity; and

WHEREAS, only a coordinated effort can hope to slow this epidemic in our community and bring relief to its victims; and

WHEREAS, a domestic violence awareness month would provide an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn about preventing domestic violence, to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services, and assistance to victims and to help raise awareness of these services in an effort to extend a life line to survivors.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor of the City of Charlotte, and George Dunlap, Chair of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 2019 as

## "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH"

in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and commend its observance to all citizens.

WITNESS OUR HANDS and the official Seals of the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor

City of Charlotte

George Dunlap, Chair Mecklenburg Board of County

Commissioners