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To: Board of Commissioners

From: Andrea Benck

Date: September 10, 2026

Re: Proclamation in Recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

HOPE Coalition is a nonprofit that serves people impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse in Wabasha and Goodhue counties. They have reached out requesting the approve the attached resolution declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Goodhue County.

Melissa Drenckhahn, Outreach Manager with HOPE Coalition will be present at the meeting to reach the proclamation.

Find your Good here.

Proclamation in Recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

WHEARAS, domestic violence is a serious public health issue affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEARAS, an average of 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States, and 1 in 4 Minnesota women report experiencing domestic violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime, and 1 in 2 Minnesota women report experiencing sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime; and

WHEARAS, every human deserves to live their lives with dignity and respect, free from violence; and

WHEARAS, domestic violence can take the form of physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, technological and economic abuse; and

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides a brilliant opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing domestic violence and to show support for the organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victim/survivors; and

WHEREAS, at least 24 Minnesota children lost a parent to domestic violence in 2024, and 4 of those children witnessed their parent murdered or found the body, and this emotional and physical trauma can have lifelong impacts; and

WHEREAS, advocates and advocacy organizations assisting those impacted by domestic violence are part of Minnesota's robust public safety network, which includes law enforcement, fire services, emergency management, and public health; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of all residents of Goodhue County, do hereby proclaim and recognize the month of October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urge all residents to stand together against domestic violence, to offer support and compassion to survivors, and to dedicate their time and talents to improving the quality of life for all of our neighbors.

Susan Betcher, Chair

Goodhue County, Minnesota