



Proclamation

By the Mayor of Prattville, Alabama

WHEREAS, domestic violence is an unnatural activity that occurs within families, betraying our fundamental understanding of home as a safe haven, of the bonds of marriage and of the conditions of trust; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence affects individuals and families from every race and walk of life; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is much more than simple quarreling or routine arguments; rather it is a cycle of violence spawned by the perpetrator's desire for power and control that can and does escalate to the point of serious injury or death; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence affects one in four women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, children are always negatively impacted by violence in the home, whether they are physically or verbally abused themselves or simply witness the violence; and

WHEREAS, thirty percent of Americans say they know a woman who has been physically abused by her husband or boyfriend in the past year, which means that a significant percentage of Montgomery area citizens are acquainted with someone who has been bound by the unyielding tethers of domestic violence;

WHEREAS, survivors of domestic violence experience physical injuries, long-term psychological damage, financial instability, and trouble finding safe housing; and

WHEREAS, police and sheriff's departments, courts, cities, social services agencies, and other local government entities constitute the first line of defense against domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, U. S. and world leaders recognize that domestic violence is a human rights concern; and

WHEREAS, considering domestic violence through the lens of human rights heightens its gravity and lends weight to the importance of awareness and education in public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Prattville and Autauga County Domestic Violence Task Force have been dedicated for years to confronting domestic violence, to providing coordinated community responses to its victims, and to advocating for peace in our homes and families,

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that City of Prattville officials declare October 2012, to be **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, a time to reflect on abuse in area homes, its implications and positive ways to assist victims, and to recognize those members of our community devoted to making homes safe havens;*

*AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these officials join U.S. and world leaders in recognizing domestic violence as a human rights concern and declare that **freedom** from domestic violence is a human right toward which state and local governments should aspire on behalf of all of the citizens they serve.*



Given under My Hand and the Seal of the City of
Prattville on the 1st day of October 2012.

Bill Gillespie, Jr.
Mayor Bill Gillespie, Jr.