

PROCLAMATION

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2018 AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, 1 in every 3 women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime; 1 in every 4 women will experience sexual assault in her lifetime; and 1 in 6 men have had abusive or unwanted sexual experiences in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year; and

WHEREAS, when a family member is abused, it can have long-term damaging effects on the victim that also leaves a mark on family, friends, and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, families are indispensable to a stable society, and they should be a place of support to instill responsibility and values in the next generation; and

WHEREAS, the problems of sexual and domestic violence are not confined to any group or groups of people, but cross all economic, racial, gender, educational, religious, and societal barriers, and are sustained by societal indifference; and

WHEREAS, the crimes of domestic and sexual violence violate an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity due to the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, and economic control and/or abuse; and

WHEREAS, a great deal of domestic violence incidents go unreported by survivors who experience fear of repercussions, threats of future violence, denial, guilt, shame, feelings of worthlessness, and/or fear of negative responses; and

WHEREAS, victims should have help to find the compassion, comfort, and healing they need, and abusers should be punished to the full extent of the law; and

WHEREAS, victims of violence should have access to medical and legal services, counseling, emergency and transitional housing, and other supportive services so that they can safely escape the cycle of abuse; and

WHEREAS, we encourage domestic and sexual violence victims and their families to seek assistance from appropriate victims' services organizations such as Project Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, healthcare providers, allied professionals, and victim services to assist victims of domestic and sexual violence and their families; and

WHEREAS, we dedicate ourselves to protecting vulnerable members of our community; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bragg, California has a moral obligation to work to prevent domestic violence, address its brutal and destructive effects and make ending domestic violence a local priority.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lindy Peters, Mayor of the City of Fort Bragg, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of **October 2018** as **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** and urge all citizens to actively support work toward the elimination of domestic violence in our community.

SIGNED this 24th day of September, 2018

LINDY PETERS, Mayor

ATTEST:

June Lemos, CMC, City Clerk