



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** Proc 16-21, **Version:** 1

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### Proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

#### **Summary and Background Information :**

Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the "Day of Unity" held in October, 1981 and conceived by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. That same year marked the initiation of the first national domestic violence toll-free hotline. In 1989, the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which is renewed annually.

The joint Commerce City/Brighton Victim Services Unit provides meaningful services to more than 1,000 victims of domestic violence annually, providing services and tools to facilitate safe transitions. Educational materials are provided throughout the year and highlighted in October to educate residents on how to spot the signs of violence and how to support those in need, including becoming a volunteer victim advocate. The attached proclamation is one way to highlight the unit's efforts.

**Staff Responsible (Department Head ):** Interim Chief Lowell Richardson

**Staff Member Presenting :** Victim Services Coordinator Kim Messina

**Financial Impact :** N/A

**Funding Source :** N/A

**Staff Recommendation :** Approve proclamation as presented.

**Suggested Motion :** I move to approve proclamation 16-21, declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Commerce City.