

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

**WHEREAS**, domestic is a serious crime that affects people of all races, ages, gender, and income levels; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is widespread and affects over 4 million Americans each year; and

**WHEREAS**, one in three Americans have witnessed an incident of domestic violence; and

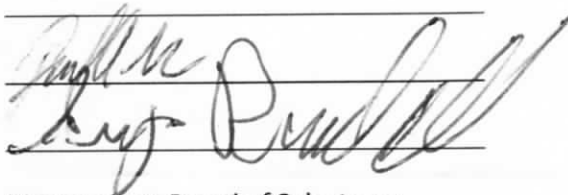
**WHEREAS**, children that grow up in violent homes are believed to be abused and neglected at a rate higher than the national average; and

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

**WHEREAS**, only a coordinated community effort will put a stop to this heinous crime; and

**WHEREAS**, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing domestic violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services, and assistance to victims;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, We, the Board of Selectmen, do hereby proclaim the month of October **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH** and urge our citizens to work together to eliminate domestic violence from our community.



Mattapoisett Board of Selectmen