

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation
October 2023**

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a widespread, preventable, public health problem impacting all demographics of Kansans, including Ottawa County; and

WHEREAS, relationships are often counted as life's greatest treasures, and tragically, many are tarnished by one person's feeling of entitlement to power and control over the other, resulting in violence and fear; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence abusers violate an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity - with their intentional, systematic use of financial, psychological, sexual, and physical coercive control and abuse; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice reports domestic violence homicides comprise 14% percent of all homicides in the U.S. and that women are more than twice as likely as men to be killed by an intimate partner; the Kansas Bureau of Investigation reports 32 domestic violence homicides were 18.5% of all homicides in Kansas in 2021; and

WHEREAS, in Kansas in 2021, a domestic violence abuser murdered another person every 11 days, 9 hours, 49 minutes and 4 seconds; a domestic violence abuser committed a violent act reported to law enforcement every 23 minutes and 16 seconds; and law enforcement made an arrest due to domestic violence every 47 minutes and 22 seconds; and

WHEREAS, DVACK served 959 victims within our 10 counties and yet these numbers do not accurately reflect the total number of domestic violence victims as many were continuing to struggle against isolation and other impacts of COVID-19; and

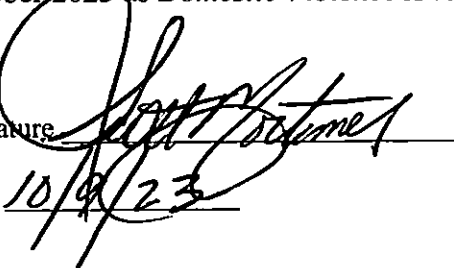
WHEREAS, we as the governing body in Ottawa County, recognize this violence is inconsistent with our County's values and cannot be ignored, excused, or tolerated; and

WHEREAS, in declaring this month of October as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" we encourage all citizens to know the facts about domestic violence, to familiarize themselves with resources, to recognize subtle signs of control tactics, to act as safe support systems, to speak up against perpetrators of violence and any messages that inadvertently condone domestic violence, to get involved, to teach others and prepare future generations for healthy relationships, and to donate time or resources to their local domestic violence agency.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 2023 as *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*

Signature

Date


10/9/23