PROCLAMATION

OF CHILDREN’S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROCLAIMING OCTOBER, 2018 AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, domestic violence continues to be a major social crisis and health care concern in our state and in Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, the physical and emotional scars of domestic violence cast a long shadow on too many individuals who face the pain and fear of domestic violence regardless of race, age, ability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Florida reported 106,979 incidents of domestic violence in 2017, including 162 murders and 18 manslaughters that resulted in the deaths of 33 children; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County reported 4,792 domestic violence crimes in 2017, down 2.6 percent from 2016, including five murders and one manslaughter; and

WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County State Attorney’s Office prosecuted approximately 3,800 domestic/dating violence cases in 2017; and

WHEREAS, 2,536 domestic violence “Injunction for Protection” orders were filed in 2017 in Palm Beach County, resulting in 1,675 advocacy services for domestic violence provided through the county Victim Services and Certified Rape Crisis Center alone, and of those services, 1,471 were for women, 204 for men or unknown, and 238 were for persons age 24 or younger; and

WHEREAS, exposure to domestic violence in the home is considered child abuse, and nearly 47 percent of child abuse victims in Palm Beach County are under the age of 5, upon whom the effects are lifelong; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Families investigated 2,694 cases involving domestic violence in Palm Beach County last year, a 78 percent increase since 2015; and

WHEREAS, the 226 verified maltreatments for family, household or intimate partner violence that threatens a child is a shocking 128 percent increase since 2015; and

WHEREAS, in those verified cases, 171 children age 17 or younger were removed from their homes and placed in foster care, which is a 19 percent decrease over the past three years; and

WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Council of Palm Beach County is coordinating a community-based response through advocacy, education and prevention with the goal of reducing the impact of violence on families; and

WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Council of Palm Beach County is sponsoring a Domestic Violence Awareness Month event, called “Justice: Seeking an End to Domestic Violence” at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, October 3, 2018, at the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office Training Division, 4215 Cherry Road in West Palm Beach; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County recognizes the vital importance of designating a time devoted to increasing the general public’s awareness to hold forth a vision of a community free from domestic violence; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF CHILDREN’S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY that the following will be observed:

October 2018 – Domestic Violence Awareness Month
The foregoing Proclamation was offered by Council Member ________________ who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Council Member ________________ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Thomas Bean
Paulette Burdick
Donald E. Fennoy, II, Ed.D.
Vincent Goodman
Thomas E. Lynch
James Martz
Vern Melvin
Debra Robinson, M.D.
Jose Luis Rodriguez, Esq.
Thomas P. Weber

The Chairman thereupon declared the Proclamation duly passed and adopted this 27th day of September, 2018.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

BY: ____________________________
    Thomas A. Sheehan, III
    Attorney for Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County

CHILDREN’S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

BY: ____________________________
    Thomas P. Weber, Chair

BY: ____________________________
    Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D.
    Chief Executive Officer