



Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

Proclamation

Recognizing YWCA Week Without Violence

WHEREAS, women and girls often face interlocking and compounding social barriers such as racism, sexism, and gender-based violence, which impact their ability to access full lives; and

WHEREAS, violence against women impacts the lives of countless women and their families across the United States, with one in four women experiencing domestic violence and more than three women murdered each day by their current or former partner in communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, every 68 seconds, another American is sexually assaulted, and, out of every 100 less than a third are reported to police, only 50 lead to an arrest, and only 28 lead to a felony conviction; and

WHEREAS, financial abuse is experienced in up to 99% of domestic violence cases and occurs across all socio-economic, educational, racial, and ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS, violence exists in the community of Kalamazoo County and 1,790 people in 2022 within Kalamazoo County were victims of reported domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, 68% of those who were victims of domestic violence in Kalamazoo County were women; and

WHEREAS, women of all racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds experience domestic violence, and BIPOC women, immigrant women, women with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ+ community face higher heightened risks of violence and greater barriers to legal remedies to supportive service due to factors such as limited English proficiency and language barriers, fear of deportation, limited access to higher education and job resources, higher risks of poverty and limited resources for access to support and affordable child care; and

WHEREAS, one of every four homeless women is homeless because of violence committed against her, and over 92% of homeless mothers have experienced severe physical and/or sexual abuse during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, 209 women on a single day in 2022 were homeless in Kalamazoo County; and

WHEREAS, the community of Kalamazoo County has declared racism a public health crisis and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the third week of October as the annual observance of YWCA Week Without Violence.

Moved
Seconded
Carried


John Taylor, Chairperson
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

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Kalamazoo County Clerk/Register of Deeds