

PROCLAMATION

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH - OCTOBER 2017

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a prevalent social problem that not only harms the victim, but also negatively affects the victim's family, including child witnesses, friends and the community at large; and,

WHEREAS, domestic violence knows no boundaries; it exists in all neighborhoods and cities, and affects people of all ages, racial, ethnic, economic, and religious backgrounds; and,

WHEREAS, one in four women and one in seven men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. In Illinois alone, there are approximately 115,000 – 125,000 domestic crimes each year; and,

WHEREAS, the health related costs of rape, physical assault, stalking and homicide by intimate partners' amounts to over \$6 Billion every year, and the annual cost of lost productivity in the workplace due to domestic violence is estimated to over \$800 million annually, with nearly 8 million paid workdays lost per year; and,

WHEREAS, Sarah's Inn, a local domestic violence agency, serves over 10,000 individuals annually through its mission to improve the lives of those affected by domestic violence and to break the cycle of domestic violence for future generations through intervention services for victims and their families, violence prevention programs that educate children on healthy relationships, and trainings to create a skilled network of community advocates to ensure an appropriate community response to violence; and

WHEREAS, during this month, we recognize the survivors and victims of abuse and commit to offering a helping hand to those most in need and reminding them that they are not alone.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anan Abu-Taleb, President of the Village of Oak Park and the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2017 as "**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**", in the Village of Oak Park and call on all citizens to take action this month by partnering with Sarah's Inn and support local efforts to assist victims of these crimes in finding the help and healing they need.

Dated this 2nd day of October, 2017.

Anan Abu-Taleb
Village President

ATTEST:

Vicki Scaman
Village Clerk