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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, domestic violence 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, I, Don Barnhart, do hereby proclaim the month of October as **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH** and urge our citizens to work together to eliminate domestic violence from our community.

Don Barnhart, Mayor

9/20/10

Date