

PROCLAMATION

- Whereas,** Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation socioeconomic status or religion, and
- Whereas,** Every day, three women lose their lives in this country as a result of domestic violence and millions of Americans live in daily, silent fear within their own homes; and
- Whereas,** Children who witness domestic violence often grow up believing that physical cruelty in relationships is acceptable behavior, and thus they tend to perpetuate a cycle of violence in society; 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,** Our efforts must extend beyond the criminal justice system to include housing and economic advocacy for survivors. We must also reach out to friends and loved ones who suffered from domestic violence, and we must tell them they are not alone; and
- Whereas,** We must continue to hold domestic abusers accountable, punish them to the full extent of the law and prevent them from inflicting more abuse; and
- Whereas,** *Victims Service Providers* are joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout *the City of Laurel, Jones County, Mississippi* to speak out against domestic violence and support local efforts to assist victims of these crimes in finding the help and healing as we raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Domestic Violence Awareness Month;
- Whereas,** This October, we can honor National Domestic Violence Awareness Month by promoting peace in our own families, homes, and communities and renewing our commitment to end Domestic Violence—in every city, every town, and every corner of America.

Now, therefore, I, Johnny Magee, *Mayor of the City of Laurel*, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2018, as

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

And reaffirm the commitment of *Laurel, Jones County, Mississippi*, to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their needs during *National Domestic Violence Awareness Month* and throughout the year; and

Express our appreciation for those victims and crime survivors who have turned personal tragedy into a motivating force to improve our response to victims of crime and build a more just community.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND AFFIXED WITH THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF LAUREL ON THIS THE 5th DAY OF OCTOBER, A.D. 2018.

ATTEST:

Johnny Magee, Mayor

Mary Ann Hess, City Clerk