

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a major public concern for our State and Nation and is now the single largest cause of injury to women; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence affects people of all ages, racial, socioeconomic, educational, religious, and occupational segments of our society, especially children; and

WHEREAS, children from violent homes are physically abused or seriously neglected at a rate significantly higher than the national average and have greater risks of alcohol/drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, cognitive and developmental problems as well as fear, anxiety and guilt; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is not a private family matter but a crime, the consequences of which reach with devastating effect on the communities, schools and workplaces of our nation; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence represents a pattern of assault and coercive behavior that will escalate in frequency and severity if intervention does not occur, and

WHEREAS, public awareness and education about domestic violence are needed as well as uniform efforts on the part of government, health professionals, law enforcement, religious organizations, educators, and community associations to address domestic violence through prevention, intervention, and treatment for victims and perpetrators.

*NOW, THEREFORE, the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine hereby proclaims that October, 2006 be designated as **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** and urges our citizens to recognize and assist all those that serve the rights and needs of victims of domestic violence.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of St. Augustine to be affixed this day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and six and the four hundred and forty first year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.

George Gardner, MAYOR