Resolution declaring October 2013, as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City and County of San Francisco.

WHEREAS, For far too long domestic violence was ignored or treated as a private matter where victims suffered in silence without hope of intervention; and,

WHEREAS, In spite of charters, conventions, and other governmental declarations, globally one billion women – one of every three women – will be raped or beaten in her lifetime and one billion mothers, daughters, sisters, partners, and friends will be violated; and,

WHEREAS, Fifty percent of the men who have frequently assaulted their partners are reported to also frequently abuse their children; and,

WHEREAS, While domestic violence is generally thought to be physical, it can also take an emotional, psychological, or sexual form, in which one person in a relationship will use a pattern of behavior to control the other person, and many victims will not immediately consider this to be "abuse;" and,

WHEREAS, Although women are much more likely to be victims of domestic violence, men account for fifteen percent of victims, and therefore any person can be a victim; and,

WHEREAS, Children in homes affected by domestic violence are more likely to be abused or neglected, and even without being directly abused, children can often experience emotional or behavioral damage; and

WHEREAS, The health-related costs of dealing with rape, physical assault, stalking, and homicide committed by domestic partners exceed $5.8 billion dollars each year; and,

WHEREAS, The California criminal justice system is failing to enforce the state’s domestic violence laws for reasons including: courts failing to issue restraining orders;
restraining orders being issued, but not served; prosecuting officers not fully utilizing community-based victims advocates; batterers failing to attend court-ordered programs without repercussions; and a lack of coordination of criminal justice agencies, according to a recent Attorney General's report; and

WHEREAS, There has been significant progress made in changing laws, providing support to survivors, and reducing the incidence of domestic violence, but we have not come far enough, and there is more work left to be done; and,

WHEREAS, San Francisco has a strong commitment to ensure human rights and equality for all of its residents through its City Charter in providing for such policies through the Human Rights Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That, in solidarity, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors joins local residents, our Bay Area neighbors, and world leaders and grassroots activists — women, men, girls, and boys — to rise against violence and join the global call to action against domestic violence; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors stands with all those who have been affected by this crime, recognizes those individuals and groups who have stepped forward to break the cycle of violence, and recommits to putting an end to domestic violence in America; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco will continue to pursue and prioritize policies that have contributed to the reduction of this type of violent crime, ensuring the safety of victims while holding accountable those responsible; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this month, as we renew our efforts to support victims of domestic violence in their time of greatest need, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors does hereby declare October 2013, as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City and County of San Francisco.
Resolution declaring October 2013 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City and County of San Francisco.

October 08, 2013 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 10 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee
Absent: 1 - Farrell

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 10/8/2013 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board