

Submitted by: ASSEMBLY MEMBERS GRAY-JACKSON,
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MAYOR SULLIVAN

Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office

For reading: September 27, 2011

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Date:

9-27-11

AR NO. 2011-251

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZING
OCTOBER 2011 AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH.**

WHEREAS, the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center and Washington State University Vancouver conducted a 2010 survey showing 47.6% of adult women in Alaska experienced domestic violence in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS in Alaska, 75% of domestic violence victims are women, and violence against women in Alaska ranks among the highest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, 30-60% of perpetrators of domestic violence also abuse children in the household, and one in three high school students have been, or will be, involved in an abusive relationship; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is an epidemic that crosses generations and affects individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, gender, religion, nationality or educational background; and

WHEREAS, residents, law enforcement, and local and state leaders are working to provide effective services and assistance to domestic violence survivors through education, support, and advocacy services; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Domestic Violence Prevention Project, October 2005 – December 2009, was a collaborative partnership between the Municipality of Anchorage Health and Human Services Department, Municipality of Anchorage Prosecutors, Anchorage Police Department, and Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC), designed to increase offender accountability through the criminal justice system and enhance victim advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the Project's findings, reported in November 2009, reflect success in improving offender accountability in these areas:

- The average number of arrest warrants served per month increased 123.7%
- Defendants were 54.7% less likely to have a prior assault charge
- The number of domestic violence cases reported per month increased 64.2%
- The average length of time to process a domestic violence case decreased 56.5%
- The number of cases dismissed or declined decreased by 63%; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault has

1 developed two sets of radio and television public service announcements airing since March
2 2011: "Real Alaskans Choose Respect", focusing on getting help if you are a victim or
3 perpetrator of domestic violence or sexual assault; and "Real Alaska Men Choose Respect",
4 focusing on the important responsibility men have in changing attitudes toward violence and
5 stopping domestic violence in our state; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the annual AWAIC event, "Silent Nights, Starry Nights" will be held on
8 October 22, 2011 at the Captain Cook Hotel, with all proceeds to benefit domestic violence
9 safe shelter and intervention by AWAIC; and
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11 WHEREAS, the Alaska Native Justice Center provides advocacy and support to
12 victims of domestic violence, and is supported by Anchorage Police Chief Mew and State of
13 Alaska Commissioner of Public Safety Joseph Masters as board members, and former police
14 chief Walt Monegan as president and chief executive officer; and
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16 WHEREAS, we must continue to work together as a community to increase public
17 awareness, educate residents, and participate in events that assist domestic violence
18 prevention;
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20 NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly recognizes October 2011 as
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22 **"DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH".**
23

24 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 27th day of
25 September, 2011.
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30 Chair
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32 ATTEST:
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37 Municipal Clerk