

COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

AGENDA ITEM: Item #71-2025

Consideration of a Proclamation: Cape Elizabeth Breaks the Silence of Domestic Abuse Month

COUNCIL RESOURCE: Chair Jordan

STAFF RESOURCE: Rachel Davis, Library Director

BACKGROUND: The Thomas Memorial Library has been working on a series of initiatives to help victims of domestic violence in Cape Elizabeth. We have been collaborating with CEPD and the organization Finding Our Voices. We would like the Town Council to make a proclamation designating July as Cape Elizabeth Breaks the Silence of Domestic Abuse Month. Finding Our Voices has worked with communities across the state to choose a month to raise awareness about domestic violence and provide resources for victims. The attached memo to the Town Manager provides further background.

EXHIBITS:

Summary Item #71-2025 June 9, 2025 Consideration of a Proclamation

Memo Library Director Rachel Davis to Pat Fox re: Cape Elizabeth Breaks the Silence of Domestic Abuse Month

DRAFT MOTION:

ORDERED, the Cape Elizabeth Town Council makes the following Proclamation:

WHEREAS, domestic abuse and violence are a public health emergency that disproportionately impacts women and children; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence imperils the general public and police; and

WHEREAS, each year for decades nearly half the homicides in Maine are related to domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, domestic abuse and violence are preventable through public education initiatives, advocacy for better policies and support systems, resources for people affected by abuse, and holding perpetrators to account; and

WHEREAS, we all have a role to play in changing the cultural norms and interrupting the belief systems that underlie abuse and in making abusive behavior socially unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, Cape Elizabeth Breaks the Silence of Domestic Abuse Month is an opportunity to shine a critical light on the issue of domestic abuse and violence in our greater community.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved the Cape Elizabeth Town Council does recognize July 2025 as

CAPE ELIZABETH BREAKS THE SILENCE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE MONTH
and urges all citizens to recognize this observance.