

TOWN OF SUDBURY

Office of Select Board

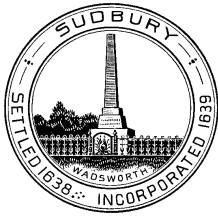
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278 Old Sudbury Rd
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PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS:** Growing evidence shows the COVID-19 pandemic has made intimate partner violence more common—and often more severe; and
- WHEREAS:** COVID-19 conditions often exacerbate circumstances of abuse, giving abusers more tools and curtailing opportunities for victims to escape violence; and
- WHEREAS:** The United Nations has deemed the intensification of domestic abuse within the larger pandemic of COVID-19 a “Shadow Pandemic;” and
- WHEREAS:** Sudbury is committed to working towards a society free of domestic violence; and
- WHEREAS:** Domestic violence, which can be physical, sexual, emotional or economic abuse, does not discriminate based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or socioeconomic status; and
- WHEREAS:** 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime; and
- WHEREAS:** Studies show that children are adversely affected when they witness or experience violence in their homes; and
- WHEREAS:** The fear of retribution and feelings of guilt and self-blame often prevent victims from seeking services for themselves or leaving abusive relationships; and
- WHEREAS:** The effects of domestic violence can be tremendously damaging. Men and women who experience domestic violence often experience short- and long-term health impacts; and
- WHEREAS:** Youth, transgender people and people with disabilities, including those who are deaf, are experiencing significantly higher rates of victimization than other people; and
- WHEREAS:** Through public awareness, Sudbury seeks to support survivors and promote safe and healthy relationships within the community; and



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WHEREAS: Local organizations, including Sudbury-Wayland-Lincoln Domestic Violence Roundtable, Sudbury Police Department, Domestic Violence Services Network (DVSN) and REACH Beyond Domestic Violence work tirelessly to root out the causes of domestic violence and offer assistance and resources to victims; and

WHEREAS: We urge all community members to shed light on the Shadow Pandemic by informing themselves about domestic violence, providing support to the individuals and organizations working to end domestic violence and making a commitment to “Never Commit, Condone, or Remain Silent about Domestic Violence.”

NOW, THEREFORE,

**The Select Board, on behalf of the Town of Sudbury, do hereby proclaim the month of
MARCH 2021**

as

**‘SHADOW PANDEMIC AWARENESS MONTH’
within the Town of Sudbury.**

Sources for Shadow Pandemic Awareness Month Proclamation Content

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts, “Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation,” October 1, 2017
- Time Magazine, “Domestic Violence is a Pandemic within the COVID-19 Pandemic,” February 3, 2021
- UN Women, “Violence Against Women and Girls: The Shadow Pandemic,” April 6, 2020
- White Ribbon, “Annual Report,” 2020

SELECT BOARD

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