

# City of Charlotte, North Carolina Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Charlotte and every city across the nation has been impacted by domestic violence. Our homes should be places of safety and comfort. Tragically, domestic violence can and does turn many homes into places of torment and suffering; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence should never be considered nor treated as a socially acceptable behavior. Domestic violence is not family business, it is a crime. There is no excuse for abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence affects people from every walk of life. Though abuse may occur in the seclusion of a private residence, its effects scar the face of our entire community; and

**WHEREAS**, the faith community must be one of the first lines of defense against domestic violence. Religious leaders have an obligation to care about their members who suffer in silence due to the shame, fear, and other stigmas attached to domestic violence. Through our actions and prayers we will proclaim that the memories of those who died are not forgotten and we will work together so that others will not suffer their fate; and

**WHEREAS**, we have laws intended to hold domestic abusers accountable for their conduct by bringing them to justice, but laws are not enough. The effort to eliminate domestic violence must include the police department, the prosecutor's office, all other segments of the criminal justice system, community and religious leaders, health care professionals, teachers, employers, friends, family and neighbors, who all play an important role; and

**WHEREAS**, we must prioritize addressing the problem of domestic violence in our community every day of the year. National Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides us with a special opportunity to emphasize that domestic violence is a crime, to warn abusers that they will be prosecuted, and to offer victims more aid and support:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Patrick McCrory, Mayor of Charlotte, do hereby proclaim October 19, 2008 as

## **“DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY”**

in Charlotte, and encourage all citizens to contribute to peace in our homes, schools, places of work and communities by learning more about domestic violence and taking positive action in protecting families from its devastating effects.

**WITNESS MY HAND** and the official Seal of the City of Charlotte.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCrory".

Patrick McCrory  
Mayor