

(7 BCC APPROVED IN 2025)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, every October, we come together as a community to observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month, recognizing the profound impact domestic violence has on individuals, families, and society; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over their intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pervasive issue that affects millions, regardless of age, gender, race, or socioeconomic status, and it requires our collective commitment to raise awareness, provide support, and seek justice for victims; and

WHEREAS, we honor the strength and resilience of survivors and acknowledge the efforts of organizations and advocates who work to end domestic violence and provide safety and support for those affected; and

WHEREAS, Hope Villages of America stands as a beacon of hope in their work against domestic violence, offering critical services, resources, and safe shelter to those in need, and working to educate and empower our community through prevention programs and outreach initiatives; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners that October 2026, be recognized as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in Pinellas County, and we urge all residents to join in this observance by supporting survivors, advocating for change, and recognizing the vital role of organizations like Hope Villages of America in creating a safer and more just community for all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and caused the seal of Pinellas County, Florida, to be affixed this **XXrd** day of October, 2026.