

Marblehead School Committee

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Jennifer Schaeffner Committee Member

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Al Williams Chairman

Kate Schmeckpeper Vice-Chairman Henry Gwazda Secretary

Domestic Violence Awareness Month- October 2025

WHEREAS domestic violence is a pervasive issue that affects individuals of all ages, identities, backgrounds, immigration status and communities, with lasting and profound effects on survivors, families, and society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the month of October is nationally recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness, educate communities, and promote prevention efforts to end domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, according to national statistics, one in three women and one in ten men experience some form of domestic violence in their lifetime, highlighting the urgent need for awareness, support, and action; and

WHEREAS organizations such as HAWC - Healing Abuse Working for Change and YWCA North Shore Rape Crisis Center provide free and confidential services to people experiencing domestic abuse, including a 24/7 hotline, legal advocacy, and education to support survivors and

WHEREAS every member of our community can play a role in preventing domestic violence by promoting a culture of respect, consent, and safety, and by standing in solidarity with survivors; and

WHEREAS the Marblehead Public Schools join advocates, survivors, and organizations across the nation in recognizing the importance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and affirm its commitment to supporting survivors and working toward a future free from domestic violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Marblehead School Committee, do hereby proclaim October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the Marblehead Public Schools and encourage all our community members to participate in activities, educational programs, and initiatives that raise awareness and foster a community dedicated to ending domestic violence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand this 30th day of October 2025.

Sincerely,

Al Williams- School Committee Chair

Kate Schmeckpeper- Vice Chair

Jennifer Schaeffner- Committee Member

Melissa Chaos, Committee March