

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is widespread and affects more than 12 million Americans each year; and

**WHEREAS**, according to statistics, 24 people per minute in America are victims of rape, stalking or physical violence by an intimate partner; and

**WHEREAS**, this means about three in 10 women and one in 10 men are victims or survivors of domestic violence; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is a serious crime that affects people of all ages, races, genders and socio-economic status; and

**WHEREAS**, children that grow up in violent homes are believed to be abused and neglected at a rate higher than the national average; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence costs the nation billions of dollars annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters, foster care, sick leave, absenteeism and overall non-productivity; and

**WHEREAS**, only awareness and a coordinated community effort will shine a light on and put a stop to this criminal behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of New Milford is committed to the safety and security of all of its residents and to prosecuting perpetrators of domestic violence; and

**WHEREAS**, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for residents to learn more about preventing domestic violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victims and survivors.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Michael Putrino do hereby proclaim;

**OCTOBER 2019**

**AS**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

in New Milford and urge residents to know the signs, to report suspected abuse and to reject and denounce behavior that mimics, minimizes or makes fun of domestic violence in real life, movies, internet gaming or any other circumstance

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Mayor Michael Putrino

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Date