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Title: To recognize that freedom from domestic violence is a fundamental human right and to recognize that local governments have a responsibility to continue defending and securing this right on behalf of their citizens.

Sponsors: Michelle M. Mills

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11/10/2011	1	CITY CLERK	Attest	
11/7/2011	1	COUNCIL PRESIDENT	Signed	
11/7/2011	1	Columbus City Council	Adopted	Pass

To recognize that freedom from domestic violence is a fundamental human right and to recognize that local governments have a responsibility to continue defending and securing this right on behalf of their citizens.

WHEREAS, this Council has worked with the Columbus Division of Police, the City Attorney's office, and the community over the years to the reduce the number of domestic violence incidents in our community and to raise awareness about the need to eliminate violence and other forms of oppression in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus Division of Police formed a dedicated Domestic Violence Unit more than 20 years ago that today comprises 11 officers who provide 24/7 coverage in Columbus for all incidents involving or having suspicion of domestic violence. Their work also includes training officers and educating the community on what domestic violence is and how to recognize what is referred to as the "silent crime"; and

WHEREAS, specially trained prosecutors and victim advocates in the Columbus City Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit work with the police to facilitate the prosecution of domestic violence cases and provide education, support, counseling, crisis intervention and overall assistance to victims of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the diligent efforts of these Units and the support of this Council have consistently acknowledged, upheld, and defended the fact that all people have the right to be safe and free from harm; and

WHEREAS, although great strides have been made, the crime of domestic violence continues to victimize families throughout Columbus. In 2010, the Columbus Division of Police received roughly 6,500 calls reporting incidents of domestic violence and almost 4,000 charges of domestic violence were filed at the Franklin County Municipal Court; and

WHEREAS, in order to combat the incidence of domestic violence in our city and better meet the needs of its victims, it is important to advance the collaborative efforts within our local government and community; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

That this Council does hereby recognize that freedom from domestic violence is a basic human right that local governments have a responsibility to continue securing on behalf of their citizens and thank all those involved in defending this right here in our community.