

**Proclamation
International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**

WHEREAS, the City of Orlando Chapter 57 Review Board, which advocates for the Citizens of Orlando in the areas of human and civil rights, with a primary focus on equal rights and equal opportunities in employment, housing and public accommodations, seeks to enhance the public welfare by declaring that protection against domestic violence is a fundamental human right; and

WHEREAS, survivors of domestic violence must deal with the effects of physical injuries, long-term psychological damage, financial instability and finding safe housing; and

WHEREAS, more than 1 in 3 women and more than 1 in 4 men in the United States will experience rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lives, according to the Centers for Disease Control; and this problem disproportionately impacts women of color, women with disabilities, women with low income and immigrant women, as well as their children; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women recognizes the urgent need for the universal application of women's rights and principles with regard to equality, security, liberty, integrity and dignity of all human beings, and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women has stated that "violence against women is the most pervasive human rights violation" and has urged the United States government to reassess laws and policies for protecting domestic violence survivors and for punishing abusers; and

WHEREAS, world, national and local leaders recognize that domestic violence is a human rights concern; and police and sheriff's departments, courts, counties, cities, social service agencies and other local government entities constitute the first line of defense against domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, by recognizing that domestic violence is a human rights violation, the Chapter 57 Review Board will raise awareness and enhance domestic violence education in communities, the public and private sectors and within government agencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BUDDY DYER, Mayor of the City of Orlando, hereby do proclaim November 25, 2014 as

“International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women”

in the City of Orlando.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Orlando to be affixed this 17th day of November 2014.