

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> AS SILENT WITNESS DAY IN WASHTENAW COUNTY

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 15, 1999

WHEREAS, the Silent Witness National Initiative's mission is to promote peace, healing and responsibility in adult relationships in order to eliminate domestic murders in the United States by the year 2010; and

WHEREAS, the initiative was developed in 1990, when an ad hoc group of women artists and writers, upset by the growing number of women in Minnesota being murdered by their partners or acquaintances, joined together with several other women's organizations to create 26 life-sized red wooden figures, each one representing a woman who was murdered. A 27<sup>th</sup> figure was added to represent those uncounted women whose murders went unsolved or were erroneously ruled accidental; and

WHEREAS, the organizers of this movement called these figures the Silent Witnesses, and one goal of the initiative is to create exhibits, similar to the one in Minnesota, in every state; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League of Ann Arbor, Inc., whose purpose is exclusively educational and charitable, is committed to eliminating violence by supporting programs designed to understand the problem, assist and protect the victims of violence and work effectively with abusers; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League of Ann Arbor, Inc. has created an exhibit of 27 Silent Witness figures, which travel throughout the state of Michigan to raise awareness of the domestic and dating violence issue; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Junior League of Ann Arbor, Inc. will join our sisters and brothers in all states of the nation, to commemorate October 18<sup>th</sup> as an annual benchmark event in the county's ongoing campaign to generate public awareness and support to end domestic violence murders in Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League of Ann Arbor, Inc. is once again shining a light on societal issues and setting a call to action for our county;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim October 18, 1999, as Silent Witness Day in Washtenaw County and encourage all of its citizens to join in raising public awareness of the horrors of domestic violence and domestic violence murders in Washtenaw County.