

Cumberland County Commissioners

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**District One Neil Jamieson • District Two Susan Witonis • District Three Stephen Gorden
District Four Patricia Smith • District Five James Cloutier**

**Domestic Violence Action Month
Proclamation – 2024**

Whereas, domestic violence remains a pervasive issue across Cumberland County, the United States and the world with implications for personal and community health;

Whereas, domestic violence affects people of all genders, sexual orientations, ages, racial, ethnic, cultural, social, religious, and economic groups in the United States and here in Cumberland County;

Whereas, in 2023, 15,147 people received help from the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence Resource Centers, and 50% had at least one child in the home;

Whereas, in 2023 Through These Doors, Cumberland County's Domestic Violence Resource Center, served 2,958 unduplicated individuals, received 8,192 helpline calls and provided 5,480 bed nights at shelter;

Whereas, there were 10 domestic violence related homicides in Maine in 2023;

Whereas, half of all women who were murdered in the US were killed by a current or former partner or family member;

Whereas, research shows that a protective factor in preventing domestic violence is creating a community where people are connected, supported and care for each other;

Whereas, every day in Cumberland County individuals and organizations support people impacted by domestic violence by providing therapeutic, legal, educational, housing, advocacy, and medical services;

Whereas, all of us have a vital role in preventing and one day ending domestic violence; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Cumberland County Commissioners hereby proclaim October 2024, as Domestic Violence Action Month in Cumberland County.

Neil D. Jamieson, Jr., Commissioner

Patricia Smith, Commissioner

Susan Witonis, Commissioner

Stephen Gorden, Commissioner

James F. Cloutier, Chair