

**PROCLAMATION**  
**Domestic Violence Awareness Month - October 2008**

**WHEREAS**, The family is the foundation of a safe and healthy community. **The Silent Witness Program** began in 1990, by a group of women from Minneapolis who were tired of seeing their friends and families being devastated by domestic violence. The group felt an urgency to do something that would speak out against the escalating domestic violence in their state and to commemorate the lives of the 26 women whose lives were lost in 1990 as a result of domestic violence; and

**WHEREAS**, The problem of domestic violence affects all citizens of this state and city, crossing all racial, social, religious, ethnic, geographic, and economic groups. Although both men and women can be abused, most victims are women; and

**WHEREAS**, In recent years, Oakland County has reported upwards of 5,000 victims of domestic violence each year. Michigan State Police records have shown that a woman is killed by a partner or former partner about once every five days in Michigan. In 2007, 53 women and one child lost their lives to domestic violence; and

**WHEREAS**, The effects of domestic violence extend beyond those experienced by the perpetrator and victim. Children in homes where there is domestic violence are more likely to be abused and/or neglected. Even when not physically harmed, these children may have emotional and behavioral problems; and

**WHEREAS**, Given this sad reality, we recognize Beaumont Hospitals as a sponsor and partner of the **Silent Witness Program** which strives to promote peace, healing and responsibility in adult relationships in order to eliminate domestic murders in the United States by the year 2010. They do so through the placement of free-standing, life-sized red wooden silhouettes, each bearing the name and story of a victim of domestic violence; and

**WHEREAS**, The Troy City Council supports the actions of Beaumont Hospitals and the Oakland County Coordinating Council Against Domestic Violence and their development of a universal plan within the hospital for the assessment, identification and implementation of domestic violence intervention strategies by increasing employee, physician and community awareness and implementing education programs at Beaumont Hospitals, including their sponsorship of the **Silent Witness Program**; and

**WHEREAS**, **The Silent Witness Program** is now in all 50 states and 20 other countries. Their efforts are significant as the domestic violence homicide rate in the United States has decreased more than 25 percent in the last several years;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Troy hereby proclaims **October 2008 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month** in the City of Troy;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That we invite all Troy residents to recognize the drastic effects that domestic violence has on our society and encourage everyone to become more aware of preventative measures and resources within our community in order to eliminate domestic violence and its negative impact on our children, women, their families and our communities.

Presented this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October 2008.