Gerard place
Housing Development Fund Company, Inc.

Providing Housing and Supportive Services for Homeless Single Parent Families

Transitional/Permanent Housing
Community Education/Outreach

www.gerardplace.org

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October 2, 2012

Dear Erie County Legislators,

As an Initiative that aims to preserve and protect families, Gerard Place urges Erie County Legislators to pass a resolution declaring domestic violence as a human rights issue. Erie County is already known as a county where professionals from social services, health care, education, religious community, criminal justice system, law enforcement and the courts work together to reduce the occurrence of intimate partner violence. Recognition that freedom from domestic violence is a fundamental human right is the next step toward protecting the thousands of women, men and children who experience domestic violence in Erie County.

Local governments have a responsibility to protect and secure the human rights of their citizens to ensure safety and quality of life. Domestic violence presents a dangerous threat to Erie County, as one in four women will suffer from domestic violence in their lifetimes. The National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma and Mental Health recognizes domestic violence as a predictor of substance dependence and mental health issues.

Gerard Place is an agency dedicated to strengthening families by empowering parents. We value community collaboration, education and outreach. We offer transitional housing and supported services for homeless single parent families. Many of the parents in our program are often victims of domestic violence seeking to improve the overall quality of life for their families.

Please consider adopting this resolution during Domestic Violence Awareness month, October 2012. This is a fantastic opportunity to bring education and public awareness to the issue of Domestic Violence on local and national levels. Adopting this resolution will demonstrate the Legislature's commitment to protect the rights to life, liberty and personal security of all citizens of Erie County.

Sincerely,

Karen Kasperek

Karen Kasperek,
Director of Services
Gerard Place

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