In Honor Of Jackie
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October 2, 2012

Erie County Legislators
92 Franklin Street, 4th floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Erie County Legislators,

As an Initiative that aims to preserve and protect domestic violence victims, *In Honor of Jackie* 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.

In Honor Of Jackie is an initiative created to honor and remember Jacqueline Wisniewski in life and death. Jackie was a dedicated employee of Erie County Medical Center and a loving mother, sister, and daughter. This June, she was fatally shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend, who had been harassing and stalking Jackie for several months. Our organization's purpose is to shed light on the prevalence of Domestic Violence in Erie County, as well as to provide support for targets of abuse.

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,

Carrie Ann (Pfleuger) Herrera
Director of ***In Honor Of Jackie***
Nonprofit Organization to Create Domestic Violence Awareness
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