

**AT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH KICKOFF,**

**PARTNERS RELEASE REPORT, ENCOURAGE SURVIVORS**

**TO SEEK SERVICES IN SPITE OF PANDEMIC**

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Oct. 1, 2020 –** At today’s virtual Domestic Violence Awareness Month kick-off press conference, Hubbard House and its partners released the results of the 2019 Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report: In 2019, in Duval County, there were 16 domestic violence related deaths, 8 deaths were specifically related to intimate partner domestic violence.

Hubbard House, the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office, the City of Jacksonville, the State Attorney’s Office and others pledged their support to survivors of domestic violence and their families, and to saving local lives. They also expressed concern over the especially dangerous conditions created for survivors by COVID-19 and encouraged survivors to reach out for support, shelter and services.

“Together, as a united front on this issue we can make a difference on all levels – whether it is providing victim services, educating the public or enforcement,” said Sheriff Mike Williams. He went on to say, “No matter the day, week or even the year, the men and women of the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office wake up, put on their uniforms, and continue to serve and protect the community we all live in together.”

The Domestic Violence Fatality Review 2019 Report is an examination of domestic violence homicides from Jan. 1, 2019 through Dec. 31, 2019, including an analysis of domestic violence homicides from December 1996 to December 2019. The purpose of the fatality report is to identify patterns and trends in domestic violence related deaths, which might have been preventable.

“We are all missing connections these days, but connection to a victim of domestic violence means so much more,” said Adair Newman, Special Victims Unit director at the State Attorney’s Office. “Please reach out, please connect, please be vigilant — intervention can save lives.”

Per the Fatality Report, 50 percent of the 2019 local domestic violence homicides involved intimate partners, including husbands, wives, boyfriends, girlfriends and partners. Over the previous 23 years, 72 percent of domestic violence homicides in Jacksonville involved intimate partners. As such, the report recommends that cases of domestic violence between intimate partners be taken seriously and viewed as potentially lethal.

“Year after year we see too many people dying who had no contact with Hubbard House,” said CEO Gail Patin. “We must get word to survivors that help is available, even now, during the pandemic, so they can turn to us for help, when they need help the very most.”

Individuals who are in an abusive relationship, or know someone who is, are urged to call (904) 354-3114 or text (904) 210-3698 Hubbard House’s 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline.

Hubbard House is a full-service certified domestic violence center providing prevention and intervention services to domestic violence survivors and their families in Duval and Baker counties in Northeast Florida.

For more information on Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities, please visit [www.hubbardhouse.org](http://www.hubbardhouse.org) and follow Hubbard House on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. If you would like a copy of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review 2018 Report, please visit www.hubbardhouse.org/news.

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