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## Town of Collierville

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**10/29/2024**  
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### October Declared Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Collierville

Mayor Stan Joyner proclaimed October 2024 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in the Town of Collierville at the October 28 Board of Mayor and Aldermen Meeting. Mayor Joyner presented the proclamation to Romona Jackson, Founding President and CEO of the Women's Advocacy Center. Collierville Municipal Judge Lee Ann Pafford Dobson joined Jackson in receiving the proclamation, showing the unified efforts of Collierville's leaders to address and prevent domestic violence.

"Domestic violence affects individuals from all walks of life, impacting not just families but entire communities," said Mayor Joyner. "Collierville is committed to supporting victims, promoting resources, and working collectively to end this pervasive issue."



*Mayor Stan Joyner presenting the proclamation to Romona Jackson (center) with Judge Dobson at the board meeting.*

The Women's Advocacy Center has been pivotal in providing support for domestic violence survivors throughout Tennessee's suburban communities, including Collierville. Since its founding in 2018, the Center has partnered with the Collierville Police Department to make strides in prevention and intervention, resulting in a remarkable 30% drop in reported cases.

"This is about more than just offering emergency help," Jackson said. "It's about sustained support. Collierville's approach to using a lethality assessment model has set a powerful example. 'Just because you ignore it, it doesn't mean it goes away,'" Jackson emphasized. "It's about the entire community coming together to address the root issues and provide safety to victims and their families."

The lethality assessment model, implemented by the Collierville Police Department with Detective Eric Shirkey's initial guidance and furthered by Detective Mikey Loveland, prioritizes victim safety by identifying high-risk situations and connecting victims with immediate support. Judge Dobson has also integrated this model into her judicial decision-making, ensuring a holistic, coordinated community response.

"What Collierville has done is phenomenal," Jackson noted. "Our collaboration with law enforcement, the judiciary, and community advocates has created a meaningful reduction in cases, setting a precedent that other municipalities can follow."



In recognition of these ongoing efforts, the Women's Advocacy Center honored the Collierville Police Department with the Changemaker Award at its annual Purple Party fundraiser; Detectives Loveland and Shirkey are pictured with the award. The award celebrates the department's dedication to community service and its advocacy for women's safety and rights. Jackson acknowledged the impact of this partnership, stating, "When law enforcement, the judiciary, and community organizations all come together, we see real progress. It's hard work, but it's necessary work."

The proclamation from Mayor Joyner encourages all residents to participate in the activities throughout Domestic Violence Awareness Month, fostering a community-wide commitment to support survivors and build a safer future for all.

For more information on the Women's Advocacy Center and how to get involved, visit [womensadvocacycenter.org](https://www.womensadvocacycenter.org).