PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, violence against women, children, and men continues to become more prevalent as a social problem in our society; and

WHEREAS, the problems of domestic violence are not confined to any group or groups of people but cross all economic, racial and societal barriers, and are supported by societal indifference; and

WHEREAS, the crime of domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity, due to systematic use of physical, emotional, verbal, sexual, psychological and economic control and/or abuse, with the impact of this crime being wide-ranging; and

WHEREAS, everyone deserves to live a life free from the fear of being hurt or killed by people who are supposed to love them; and

WHEREAS, in our quest to impose sanctions on those who break the law by perpetrating violence, we must also meet the needs of victims of domestic violence who often suffer grave physical, psychological and financial losses; and

WHEREAS, the **Safe + Sound Somerset** organization provides services to victims, free of charge, that include emergency shelter, legal advocacy, outreach counseling, community education, including volunteer Domestic Violence Response Teams that work with local police departments; and

WHEREAS, the **Safe + Sound Somerset** organization has been holding an annual Candlelight Vigil for twenty-seven years, bringing awareness to people affected by domestic violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor Stephen K. Pote, hereby proclaim the month of October to be:

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

in the Borough of Watchung, and do hereby commend the efforts of **Safe + Sound Somerset** in aiding victims of domestic violence.

Date: October 6, 2016

Stephen K. Pote, Mayor