

# *Proclamation*

## *Board of Commissioners for Washington County*

### A PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is a serious crime that affects people of all races, ages, gender identities, socio-economic levels, religions, backgrounds, beliefs and abilities; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence includes physical, emotional, social, sexual, spiritual, financial and digital abuse; and can occur between family members, intimate partners and within dating relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, trauma in the home, including intimate partners who are the direct recipients of violence and children who may be exposed to violence, is a threat to the safety and stability of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is widespread, and it is estimated that over 12 million Americans are affected each year; and

**WHEREAS**, more than one in three women and one in four men in the United States report having experienced domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault or physical assault by an intimate partner during their lifetimes; and

**WHEREAS**, one in fifteen children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence. Children that grow up in violent homes are believed to be abused and neglected at a rate higher than the national average, often resulting in life long trauma; and

**WHEREAS**, intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime, at least 19% of reported domestic violence involves the use of a weapon, and the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, Oregon domestic and sexual violence programs answered 128,786 calls for help and provided shelter to 3,786 individuals and their children; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence costs the nation over 8.3 billion dollars annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters, foster care, sick leave, absenteeism, and non-productivity; and

**WHEREAS**, our law enforcement officers put their lives at risk daily responding to domestic violence incidents and the Washington County Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office agree that only a coordinated community effort will put a stop to this cycle of violence; and

**WHEREAS**, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an excellent platform to show support for domestic violence advocates, crisis hotline staff, victim service organizations, prosecutors and law enforcement officers that serve our community and provides the residents of Washington County the opportunity to learn more about preventing domestic violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, resources, hope and assistance to victims;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that on this first day of October 2019, the Washington County Board of Commissioners proclaims the month of October 2019 as DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH in Washington County.

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Kathryn Harrington, Chair

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Recording Secretary

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Minute Order