



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**Department of Parks & Community Services**  
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**www.kirklandwa.gov**

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Lynn Zwaagstra, Director  
Leslie R. Miller, Human Services Supervisor

**Date:** September 25, 2020

**Subject:** DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Mayor proclaim October 2020 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Kirkland, Washington.

## **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

The purpose of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month is to promote an active community response against the scourge of domestic violence. Individuals may make a pledge of personal action utilizing the pledge form shared at the end of this memo.

LifeWire, the leading domestic violence agency in Washington State, encourages survivors, their loved ones, and concerned residents to learn more by calling the LifeWire Helpline at 425-746-1940. Resources regarding Domestic Violence are available as well at the following websites:

LifeWire, [www.lifewire.org](http://www.lifewire.org)  
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, <https://wscadv.org>  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, <https://ncadv.org>.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created more challenges and more danger for domestic violence survivors. Please go to the following LifeWire page to hear more from a LifeWire legal advocate and survivor services advocates. <https://www.lifewire.org/covid-19/>

Staff will post the proclamation online and provide a link to additional resources through the City of Kirkland website.

The Christian Coalition for Safe Families is appreciative of the Council's attention to National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Theresa Anderson, LifeWire Board Member, will accept the proclamation at Tuesday's meetings.



# A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

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## Designating October 2020 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Kirkland, Washington

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is an issue affecting residents of Kirkland, regardless of age, gender, economic status, race, religion, nationality, or educational background; and

**WHEREAS**, on average, 20 people per minute experienced rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, over half of all female homicide victims are killed by intimate partners; and

**WHEREAS**, 30 percent of children exposed to intimate partner violence had their first exposure before the age of two, and an additional 26 percent had their first exposure between the ages of two and seven; and

**WHEREAS**, victims of domestic violence are more likely to experience long-term mental and physical health concerns including a higher risk of chronic disease, substance use, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety; and

**WHEREAS**, racism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism and discrimination based on physical ability, nationality or other factors help to perpetuate domestic violence and make finding safety even more difficult for some victims;

**WHEREAS**, challenges related to the COVID-19 global pandemic, including stressors such as unemployment, reduced income, limited resources, social support and having to stay at home have increased family violence and abuse. Although home is a sanctuary for most of us, it can be the most dangerous place for victims of domestic violence; and

**WHEREAS**, Kirkland joins with others across Washington and the nation in supporting victims of domestic violence, as well as local programs, state coalitions, national organizations, and other agencies nationwide who are committed to increasing public awareness of domestic violence and sending a clear message to abusers that domestic violence is not tolerated in Kirkland; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence impacts millions of people each year, but it can be prevented. Preventing domestic violence requires the collective voice and power of individuals, families, institutions, and systems to transform our communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Penny Sweet, do hereby proclaim October 2020, as *Domestic Violence Awareness Month* in the City of Kirkland. Let us honor survivors by promoting peace in our own families, homes, and communities. Let us renew our commitment to end domestic violence and its brutal and destructive effects so that domestic violence has no future in Kirkland or beyond.

Signed this 6th day of October, 2020

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Penny Sweet, Mayor