



**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  
Antoinette M. Smith, Human Services Coordinator

**Date:** October 5, 2021

**Subject:** DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Mayor proclaim October 2021 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Kirkland, Washington.

## **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

Domestic Violence Awareness Month was first observed in October of 1987 and that same year the first national toll-free hotline was activated. The purpose of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month is to promote an active community response against the scourge of domestic violence. The theme for this year's campaign is "#Every1KnowsSome1" to highlight how common domestic violence is. One of the purposes of raising awareness is to remind everyone that ending domestic violence starts with just one small action, whether that is seeking help or sharing resources. Here are some places to seek help or get information to share:

- The King County Domestic Violence Hotline can be reached at (206) 737-0242 or (877) 737-0242.
- Consejo Counseling and Referral Services specializes in providing services for Latino survivors with limited English. More information is available at <https://consejocounseling.org/domestic-violence-program/>. The phone number is (206) 461-4880.
- Services are available in 17 languages through the King County Peace in the Home Helpline at (888)-847-7205.
- The National Deaf Domestic Violence serves survivors through a video phone hotline at (855) 812-1001.

- LifeWire, the leading Eastside and Washington State provider of domestic violence services, encourages survivors, their loved ones, and concerned residents to learn more at [www.lifewire.org](http://www.lifewire.org). Survivors, friends and families needing assistance can call the LifeWire Helpline at 425-746-1940.
- The NW Network of Bi, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse has information available at <https://www.nwnetwork.org/>. Its number is (206) 568-7777.
- The Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence has a useful guide for family and friends who are concerned about the safety of a family member or friend at <https://wscadv.org/resources/friends-family-guide/>
- A more comprehensive list of local services is available at the Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence at <https://endgv.org/local-services/>.
- The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence also has information available at <https://ncadv.org>.

#### Men are Among the Survivors

- While women are the most likely population to suffer from domestic violence, one of our male community members, reminds us that men, too, are survivors of domestic violence. The LifeWire website calls out some of the challenges that male survivors face. They hear from men that
  - 1) There are few community resources for male survivors of domestic violence,
  - 2) Family members or friends have told them to “suck it up” because they’re a man,
  - 3) They’re not believed when they share their abuse with police, family, or friends.

More information is available at <https://www.lifewire.org/get-help/for-men/>

#### Impact of the Pandemic

- 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 Mayor’s attention to National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

A representative of Consejo Counseling and Referral Service and a member of the community will both accept the proclamation at the October 5<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.



# A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

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## Designating October 2021 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Kirkland, Washington

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence impacts community members of Kirkland, regardless of race, cultural background, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic classes, or religion with a disproportionate impact within communities of color and other marginalized groups; and

**WHEREAS**, Native women are 2.5 times more likely to be assaulted than other groups of women in the United States and homicide is the third leading cause of death for Native women; national statistics show 55.5 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner; and

**WHEREAS**, 54% of trans and nonbinary folks have experienced intimate partner violence in some form that includes acts such as coercion and physical harm; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men will experience some form of physical violence and 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will experience severe physical violence by an intimate partner; and

**WHEREAS**, on average, 49% of the homicides in Washington State where victims are identified as "female" and 11% are identified as "male" are a result of intimate partner violence; and

**WHEREAS**, nationally, intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime and in the City of Kirkland in 2020, officers responded to 1,336 domestic related calls-for-service; and

**WHEREAS**, it is reported almost 10 million adolescents and children each year witness violence involving parents and/or caregivers; and

**WHEREAS**, survivors 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, ableism, or all other forms of discrimination, work to perpetuate domestic violence, making access to safety even more difficult for some survivors and victims of domestic violence; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 global pandemic amplified already existing disparities among people of color and other marginalized folks and during this time crucial services have been reduced or eliminated; and

**WHEREAS**, Kirkland joins with others across Washington and the nation in supporting survivors 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 and this year's awareness theme "#Every1KnowsSome1" highlights how tragically prevalent domestic violence is in society. Stopping domestic violence from occurring requires the collective actions and voices of individuals, families, institutions, and systems to transform our communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim October 2021, 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 5th day of October, 2021

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Penny Sweet, Mayor