



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Lynn Zwaagstra, Director
Jen Boone, Human Services Manager
Antoinette M. Smith, Human Services Coordinator - Equity

Date: September 22, 2022

Subject: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor proclaim October 2022 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 insidious and pervasive presence of domestic violence. 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. This year's national awareness campaign focuses on the reality that EVERYONE KNOWS SOMEONE-#Every1KnowsSome1. We all know someone who has been personally impacted by violence in the home or at the hands of someone close to them. It is up to everyone to take a stand against domestic violence.

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/> 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 Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA) has a domestic violence program that includes social services, advocacy and family law legal services. Find out more at <https://www.rewa.org/services/domestic-violence/>

- The National Deaf Domestic Violence Hotline serves survivors through a video phone hotline at (855) 812-1001. For more information go to <https://www.thedeafhotline.org/>.
- 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. 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/>. Their 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>.

Impact of the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to create challenges and danger for domestic violence survivors. The National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice reported an over 8% increase in domestic violence incidents in the U.S. Providing ways for survivors and their families to connect to resources is crucial if we want to put an end to domestic violence. Our collective support is needed to keep the resources above, and many others, accessible to anyone seeking a pathway out of an abusive and dangerous situation. Visit LifeWire's [page](#) to read more from a LifeWire legal advocate and survivor services advocates.

Investment in Human Services

As part of the City's ongoing commitment to survivors in our community, the City provides support to local domestic violence agencies and prevention programs through the City's human services grant program. In 2021-2022, the City invested over \$230,000 to local organizations who provide emergency shelter, housing, crisis intervention, counseling, legal advocacy, support groups, referrals, and community education. Learn more by visiting the City's Human Services Dashboard [here](#).

The pandemic led to a substantial increase in community members experiencing domestic violence, in particular, women and people of color. In response, the City invested over \$240,000 in one-time pandemic funding to match the increased demand for services on the Eastside, including shelter, housing, advocacy, and awareness.

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

A LifeWire staff member will accept the proclamation at the October 4th Council meeting.



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Designating October 2022 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, this year's national awareness campaign focuses on the reality that EVERYONE KNOWS SOMEONE-#Every1KnowsSome1. We all know someone who has been personally impacted by violence in the home or at the hands of someone close to them. It is up to everyone to take a stand against domestic violence; 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, women with disabilities experience intimate partner violence at twice the rate of other populations. Disability affects more than 1 in 4 women and 1 in 5 men in the United States and has been associated with a greater risk of experiencing violence compared to people without a disability; and

WHEREAS, People of Color are disproportionately impacted by domestic violence with 45.1% of Black women and 40.1% of Black men experiencing intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes and 26.9% of Hispanic/Latina women experiencing domestic or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime; 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, people who are immigrants and refugees, including those who are undocumented, may not report incidents of abuse because of fear of deportation or separation from children and family and often struggle with finding linguistically and culturally appropriate resources and services; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to violence; and

WHEREAS, on a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines and, on average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. This equates to more than 10 million people in one year; and

WHEREAS, nationally, intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime and in the City of Kirkland in 2021, officers responded to 1,225 domestic related calls-for-service; 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, the COVID-19 global pandemic continues to amplify 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. 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, do hereby proclaim October 2022, 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 4th day of October, 2022

Penny Sweet, Mayor