



CLACKAMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

Sheriff Angela Brandenburg
Jesse Ashby, Undersheriff
Michael Copenhaver, Undersheriff
Jenna Morrison, Undersheriff

October 12, 2023

BCC Agenda Date/Item: 10/12/23

Board of County Commissioners
Clackamas County

Proclamation Declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Previous Board Action/Review	N/A		
Performance Clackamas	1. Which indicator of success does this item affect? Building trust through good government; and ensuring safe, healthy and secure communities.		
Counsel Review	Yes	Procurement Review	No
Contact Person	Erin Henkelman	Contact Phone	(503) 655-8600

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Domestic Violence Awareness Month, held annually in October, allows communities nationwide to join forces to raise awareness about the far-reaching impact of domestic violence. One in three women, one in four men, and nearly half of LGBTQ+ people will experience domestic violence in their lifetime (NNEDV, 2023). This issue impacts people of every gender and everyone knows someone affected by domestic violence.

High rates of domestic violence are not private, individual problems; they require community solutions. By acknowledging this reality, we can collectively work towards ending domestic violence and creating safe, healthy communities for everyone.

In 2021, 32.5% of families involved with the Department of Human Services Child Welfare department had domestic violence as a component of their case (2021 *Child Welfare Data Book, September 2022*) and 1,152 victims of domestic violence applied for a protective order in Clackamas County.

In 2013, A Safe Place Family Justice Center (ASP-FJC) opened as our community's collective response to adults

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A Tradition of Service Since 1845

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and children impacted by domestic violence. ASP-FJC is comprised of 10 on-site public and non-profit partners co-located under roof, providing trauma-informed, wrap around services to survivors and their children, free of charge. In 2022, ASP-FJC provided support and advocacy to 628 survivors seeking services at the center for the first time and had 1,553 visits for services including 343 children accompanying their caregiver.

A Safe Place is a one-stop shop, where survivors can walk in, without an appointment to speak with an advocate about their situation, discuss ways to stay safe, find out about housing resources, receive counseling or attend a support group, apply for financial benefits, file a restraining order, speak with a civil legal attorney or make a report to law enforcement. Our multi-disciplinary, on-site partners work in concert to provide efficient, coordinated services that reduce the number of times a survivor has to tell their story, are focused on victim safety and holding domestic violence offenders accountable.

The Strangulation Response Initiative was formed in early 2018, in preparation for the implementation of the new felony strangulation law in Oregon. The multi-disciplinary team consists of key system partners who work in cooperation and collaboration to improve our county's identification, response, and prosecution of near- and non-fatal strangulation. Team members include Clackamas County, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), ASP-FJC, Clackamas Women's Services, District Attorney's Office and Victims Assistance, local health systems, Rapid Save Investigations, CCSO Parole and Probation, local law enforcement agencies, Oregon State Police, and emergency medical services. In 2022, CCSO recorded 160 felony strangulation offenses and between 2018 and 2022, the District Attorney's office received an increase of 74% in referred strangulation charges and a 45% increase in strangulation charges filed.

This month, we honor the tremendous dedication of advocates and service providers, honor the courage and resilience of survivors, and recommit ourselves to standing with them for safety, dignity, and justice. There is still much work to do, and it will take all of us to do it. We must rededicate ourselves to creating a society where domestic violence is not tolerated, where survivors are supported, and where all people have an opportunity to thrive without fear of violence or abuse.

Thank you for being an integral part of this movement. Together, we can create change and build a world free from domestic violence.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Sheriff's Office respectfully requests that the Board of County Commissioners proclaim October 2023 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela Brandenburg
Sheriff



Erin Henkelman
ASP-FJC Director

**PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2023
AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious crime in Clackamas County that affects people of all races, ages, gender, and income levels; and

WHEREAS, family is the foundation of a safe and healthy community and it is the goal of Clackamas County for our communities to be safe; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 3 women, 1 in 4 men and nearly half of LGBTQ+ people will experience domestic violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, 32.5% of families involved with the Department of Human Services Child Welfare department had domestic violence as a component of their case in 2021; and

WHEREAS, 1,152 victims of domestic violence requested a protection order in Clackamas County in 2022;

WHEREAS, there were 1,553 in-person visits to A Safe Place Family Justice Center in 2022, from people seeking assistance and safety from violence; and

WHEREAS, victims should have help to find the compassion, comfort, and healing they need, and abusers should be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law; and

WHEREAS, only a coordinated community effort will put a stop to this serious crime; and

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for people to learn more about preventing domestic violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victims;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners that October 2023 is Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Clackamas County. We encourage all citizens of the County to join in this observance and to learn more about what they can do to help end domestic violence both individually and collectively.

Dated this 12th day of October, 2023

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

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