

THURSTON COUNTY

# Proclamation

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month

*WHEREAS, the month of October has been nationally designated Breast Cancer Awareness Month; and*

*WHEREAS, breast cancer is the most common cancer among Thurston County women, with 272 new cases diagnosed each year; and*

*WHEREAS, men also get breast cancer and the rate of newly diagnosed cases is higher for Thurston County men compared to Washington State men; and*

*WHEREAS, cancer is experienced differently among people of color and, in Thurston County, Native American women, followed by Hispanic women, are at highest risk for breast cancer; and*

*WHEREAS, cancer is the leading cause of death for Thurston County residents, and breast cancer takes the lives of 41 county women and men each year; and*

*WHEREAS, there are ways to lower your risk for breast cancer, which include staying at a healthy weight, engaging in physical activity several times per week, and limiting or avoiding alcohol; and*

*WHEREAS, having regular mammograms can help find breast cancer at an early stage when treatment is most successful; however, Thurston County is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> worst in Washington State for screening among women age 65-74; and*

*WHEREAS, every year too many people are touched by pain and hardship caused by breast cancer, and the Thurston County Board of Health supports these individuals and their families and commits to continue working toward a future free from cancer in all its forms.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the Board of Health hereby proclaims **October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month** in Thurston County, to honor those who have lost their lives to breast cancer, recognize the courageous women and men who are living with this disease, and rejoice with those who are breast cancer survivors. The Board encourages residents, other government agencies, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and all other interested groups to join in activities that will increase awareness of breast cancer and advocate for comprehensive cancer care close to home.

*Adopted this eighth day of October, 2019*

BOARD OF HEALTH

