

THURSTON COUNTY

Proclamation

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

WHEREAS, the month of October has been nationally designated Domestic Violence Awareness Month and domestic violence is a preventable serious public health issue; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive, coercive, dominating, and punishing behaviors perpetrated by one intimate partner against another and impacts people of all ages, genders, races, and socio-economic status and disproportionately affects people from marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS, in Thurston County, 18% of women and 11% of men witnessed domestic violence as a child and 21% of women and 8% of men have had an intimate partner hit, slap, kick, or physically hurt them in some way; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence causes physical injury, mental anguish, economic loss, and death in our communities and in Thurston County, from 2010 to 2017, 14 people were murdered as a result of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, in Washington State half of all crimes against people are domestic violence related. Every year the Thurston County Sheriff's Department and other local law enforcement agencies respond to domestic violence calls that involve assault, rape, kidnapping, intimidation, burglary, and violation of no contact orders; and

WHEREAS, Victim Advocates for the Thurston County Prosecutor's office provided advocacy services to over 1,050 victims of domestic violence and the Thurston County Clerk's Office completed 2,486 interviews of victims seeking protection orders; and

WHEREAS, multiple Tribal nations, local government, and nonprofit community organizations and advocacy groups, such as the Thurston County Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Task Force, SafePlace, the Family Support Center of South Sound, the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the YWCA, and others coordinate with each other to prevent and respond to domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge those who have lived through violence and abuse as survivors and the Thurston County Board of Health, together with Thurston Thrives Education and Resilience Action Team, Public Safety and Justice Action Team, and the Thurston Coalition for Women's Health support the efforts to promote healthy relationships, protect the safety of survivors, and reduce harm to child witnesses and others through an increased focus on regional cooperative strategies.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Thurston County Board of Health hereby proclaims **October as Thurston County Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, encouraging all county residents to take action to end domestic violence in our community by learning about the impacts of domestic violence, creating policies in their workplaces, engaging in discussions with family and friends, supporting victim service providers, and those working to hold domestic violence offenders accountable.*

Adopted this ninth day of October, 2018

BOARD OF HEALTH

Paul Blake
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Thurston Thrives!