

CITY OF LAKEWOOD



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Lakewood believes that domestic violence in all forms -- whether involving assaults, threats, dating violence, stalking, violation of protection orders or other manners of violence -- negatively impacts individuals, families and the community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lakewood understands in particular the adverse impacts on a child who is present, witnesses or is aware of domestic violence in the home or in the family can be both immediate and life-long; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lakewood recognizes that the persistence of domestic violence is about more than relationship problems or family issues; rather, it is an issue that carries both immediate and long-term adverse effects for victims, families, schools and workplaces that can last for generations, as well as for first responders, the criminal justice system and domestic violence advocates and service providers; and

WHEREAS, from January 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020, the City of Lakewood Legal Department, on behalf of the citizens of Lakewood, University Place, Steilacoom and DuPont, filed 303 domestic violence cases (an average of about 43 cases filed per month), including 42 cases of Exposing Minor Child to Domestic Violence - while recognizing these figures reflect only crimes that have been reported and are likely well below the actual occurrence rate; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to not only hold violent members of the society accountable for acts of domestic violence, but also in an effort to provide assistance to victims and families exposed to domestic violence, the City of Lakewood remains committed to a collaborative effort between law enforcement and prosecution as well as other entities - both civilian and military - providing support and advocacy for domestic violence victims and their families, ensuring those individuals receive support, assistance and information to educate, protect and, ultimately, reduce and eliminate acts of domestic violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Lakewood City Council hereby proclaims October 2020 as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Lakewood and urges all citizens to join us in recognizing domestic violence as a crime with impact on individuals, families and our community, with the ultimate goal of educating, protecting and, ultimately, reducing and eliminating acts of domestic violence.

PROCLAIMED this 5th day of October, 2020.

Don Anderson, Mayor