

CITY OF LAKEWOOD



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, domestic violence in all forms -- whether involving assault, 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 of domestic violence on a child can be both immediate and lifelong if they witness or are aware of domestic violence in the home or in their family; and

WHEREAS, the persistence of domestic violence is about more than relationship problems or family complications; 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, 2022 through July 31, 2022, the City of Lakewood Legal Department, on behalf of the residents of Lakewood, DuPont and Steilacoom, filed 291 domestic violence cases (averaging about 41 per month), 36 cases of Exposing a Minor Child to Domestic Violence, and have referred 411 domestic violence victims to community resources; and

WHEREAS, these figures reflect only crimes that have been reported and are likely well below the actual occurrence rate; and

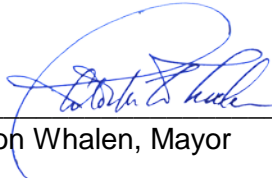
WHEREAS, in an effort to not only hold violent members of society accountable for acts of domestic violence, but also in an effort to provide assistance to victims and families exposed to domestic violence, the City of Lakewood remains committed to a collaborative effort between law enforcement and prosecution as well as other entities - civilian and military - to provide 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 2022 as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

PROCLAIMED this 3rd day of October, 2022.



Jason Whalen, Mayor