

*Office of the Mayor
City of Fairbanks*

Proclamation

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious crime that affects people of all races, ages, gender, and income levels. Domestic violence is widespread and according to the Alaska Victimization Survey, 1 out of every 2 women in the city of Fairbanks has experienced domestic violence during their lifetime and 11% of these women experienced the violence within the last 12 months. In addition, we know that children witnessing domestic violence in the home creates trauma that has long-term effects and nationally 1 in 4 men are victims of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, in the past year the Fairbanks Police Department responded to 1008 calls for assistance related to domestic violence. This averages 20 calls per week and of those calls 134 times the abuse was of an extent that an arrest was mandatory; and

WHEREAS, the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living provided housing and support for 846 individuals which included 130 children residing in emergency shelter. Each night there was an average of 50 victims and their children displaced due to the violence occurring in their home and 38 victim's sustained injuries from strangulation that required medical care; and

WHEREAS, the cost of domestic violence to our community is high. Costs include law enforcement, the judicial system, emergency and long term services for victims, absenteeism related to employment, and often times increased rates of behavioral health issues; and

WHEREAS, during domestic violence awareness month we encourage all citizens in the City of Fairbanks and surrounding areas to learn what they can do to be part of the coordinated effort to stop domestic violence from happening and to show support to organizations and individuals who work with victims ensuring a safety net and with those abusing their families to teach them a new way of being;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Matherly, Mayor of the City of Fairbanks do hereby proclaim:

*October 2018
"Domestic Violence Awareness Month"*

in the CITY OF Fairbanks and urge all of our citizens to join me, members of the Fairbanks City Council, and those working with victims and offenders in working together to eliminate domestic violence from our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands this 22nd day of October, 2018

*Jim Matherly, Mayor
City of Fairbanks*

ATTEST:

Danyielle Snider, CMC, City Clerk

