

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**PROCLAMATION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

Proclaiming the Month of October 2012 Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Multnomah County, Oregon

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. In Oregon, 37.3% of women will suffer violence at the hands of an intimate partner in her lifetime. The resulting injuries and health issues that follow cost Oregonians more than \$35 million a year in health care.
- b. In Multnomah County, domestic violence is one of the most significant contributors to violent crime and homicides, accounting for approximately 40% of all reported violent crimes.
- c. One in four Oregon homicides is the result of Domestic Violence and 42% of these are followed by a suicide or suicide attempt.
- d. In addition, 40% of founded child abuse cases in Multnomah County have domestic violence as one of the known family risk factors. Children who are exposed to a domestic violence perpetrator are more likely to inflict violence on others, creating a cycle of violence that must be stopped.
- e. In 2011, after a ten year decline, Multnomah County found an increase in domestic violence, based on a 6% increase in restraining order applications and a similar 6% increase in domestic violence related assaults reported to the police.
- f. In that same year, 2,786 unduplicated survivors and secondary survivors sought services at the Gateway Center for Domestic Violence.
- g. All people should be able to live and work free from domestic violence or the threat of violence.
- h. Multnomah County is committed to addressing domestic violence and helping those who have been victimized to reclaim their dignity and their lives. In 2000, Multnomah County established a policy to reduce domestic violence and resolved to develop effective and integrated responses to domestic violence, to provide funding for domestic violence services, and to work with community organizations to enhance community-wide responses to domestic violence. (Resolution No. 00-149). In addition, the County has funded and helped to developed a systemic response to domestic violence that includes a victim services system and specialized criminal justice intervention by the Department

of Community Justice and the District Attorney's Office. It has instituted a Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, the Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team (DVERT), and partnered with the City of Portland to fund staffing for the Family Violence Coordinating Council and to open the Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services.

- i. Multnomah County and the Domestic Violence Coordinator's Office are proud to partner with community organizations such as Bradley-Angle House, Portland Women's Crisis Line, Raphael House, Salvation Army West Women's & Children's Shelter, Volunteers of America Home Free, YWCA Yolanda House, Catholic Charities, Self-Enhancement Inc, IRCO, Russian Oregon Social Services, the Native American Youth and Family Center and the Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services in providing hope and healing to victims.
- j. Multnomah County also recognizes the commitment of the District Attorney's Office (prosecution), the Family Court and Domestic Violence Court, the Department of Community Justice (probation supervision), the Sheriff's Office (restraining order service, law enforcement, and corrections), and the Department of County Human Services have made to address this tragic problem and to help those who have been victimized.
- k. We encourage others in the community to join us in bringing awareness about this issue to our constituents, to other elected officials, to county staff and other organizations. Ending domestic violence requires everyone in our community to take action.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:**

The month of October 2012 to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Multnomah County, Oregon, underscoring our commitment to bringing an end to domestic violence. In so doing, we are sending a message of support for victims and survivors and their children and a message to perpetrators that domestic violence is not tolerated in our County.

ADOPTED this 18th day of October, 2012.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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Jeff Cogen, County Chair

Deborah Kafoury  
Commissioner District 1

Loretta Smith  
Commissioner District 2

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Judy Shiprack  
Commissioner District 3

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Diane McKeel  
Commissioner District 4

SUBMITTED BY:  
Deborah Kafoury, District 1