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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Home should be a safe and trustworthy place, but for too many Oregonians it is instead fraught with terror due to domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, The crime of domestic violence violates an individual's privacy and dignity, security and humanity, due to systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, economic, and psychological control and abuse to children and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is not limited to physical or verbal abuse but includes intimate terrorism (such as isolation, covert control, reproductive coercion, economic and sexual exploitation) and online abuse (such as stalking, humiliation, doxing, rape and death threats) and these forms of terror are often unrecognized by our laws and norms; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence affects not only the person being abused but also children, neighbors, friends, family, coworkers, faith communities, and others; seeing or hearing abuse can be particularly terrifying for children and people with trauma histories; and children witnessing violence is recognized as a form of abuse itself; and

WHEREAS, The triad of forced financial dependence, reproductive abuse, and familial isolation creates monumental barriers to leaving an abusive relationship, and dangerous situations are further exacerbated by worsening economic realities, especially the lack of truly affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, It is survivors of violence, and the advocates who partner with them daily on safety planning and support measures, to whom we look for guidance on raising awareness of domestic violence, and ultimately working to build community norms of healthy relationships; and

WHEREAS, Hope & Safety Alliance continues to provide safety, hope and healing to domestic violence survivors of all genders through advocacy and support and focuses on educational prevention and has served thousands of people in Lane County for more than 45 years; and

WHEREAS: Too many Oregonians have lost their lives due to domestic violence; we remember those women, men, and children who have died and are taking a firm stance to prevent domestic violence; and

WHEREAS: The impact and the cost of domestic violence is wide-ranging and devastating directly affecting individuals, children and society, in this community, throughout the United States and the world.

NOW, THEREFORE: I, Jeff Gowing, Mayor of the City of Cottage Grove, hereby proclaim October 2022 to be

“DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH”

in Cottage Grove and urge all people to actively participate in the scheduled activities and programs to work toward eradicating domestic violence, improving victim safety, and holding perpetrators of domestic abuse accountable for their actions against individual victims and our society.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Cottage Grove to be affixed this 26th day of September 2022.

JEFFREY D. GOWING - MAYOR
CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE, OREGON