



Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 2009 the City of Bonney Lake reported 133 domestic violence assaults and 19 no contact order violations. While domestic violence offenses are down 43.3% from last year, use of the domestic violence kiosk at City Hall is up. The 2009 Washington State Domestic Violence Fatalities report identified 40 deaths in Washington State of which 10 occurred in Pierce County. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence found that one in every four women and one in nine men are victims of domestic violence during some time in their lives; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence transcends gender, age, racial, ethnic, religious and socioeconomic borders, and follows a pattern of assault that deprives the abused of their dignity, safety, security and freedom; and

WHEREAS, children who are exposed to domestic violence develop higher levels of behavioral and cognitive problems such as academic problems; aggression; clinginess to caregivers; depression; destructibility; feeling scared; feelings of guilt; feelings of not belonging; low levels of empathy; low self-esteem; nightmares; poor problem-solving skills; post-traumatic stress disorder; suicidal behaviors; truancy; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence costs the nation billions of dollars annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters, transitional housing, foster care, sick leave, absenteeism and non-productivity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bonney Lake has been proactive in its public outreach efforts to stop the spread of against domestic violence with posters and referral information available on the website, in city building and through the computerized domestic violence kiosk at city hall that allows residents to file for court protective orders without traveling to Tacoma. This is in addition to last year amending Chapter 9.23 of the Bonney Lake Municipal Code to criminalize domestic violence in the presence of children and domestic violence strangulation; and

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a time to reflect on the responsibilities of communities and citizens to build healthy, thriving families free from the threat of violence; and

WHEREAS, the home should be a place of peace, safety, and love;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Neil Johnson, Jr., Mayor of the City of Bonney Lake, Washington, do hereby proclaim:

October 2010 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

in the City of Bonney Lake and strongly urge the citizens of Bonney Lake to support local agencies, organizations, events and activities aimed at ridding our society of this tragic form of abuse.

Signed this 12th day of October 2010--

Neil Johnson, Jr., Mayor