

## Mayor Nancy Smith

**Whereas**, the words “Domestic Violence” are often avoided and cause unease when heard or uttered. Nevertheless, it is a crime so prevalent and affects far too many in our city, our state, our country and throughout the world; and

**Whereas**, domestic violence reveals itself in many forms and claims many victims. In all its forms, domestic violence always seeks to intimidate and dominate. It is consumed with having power and control over others; and

**Whereas**, throughout the United States, the number of domestic violence crimes is staggering. Arizona is suffering too, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation. In fact, statistics reveal that in Arizona, 24 people a minute are victims of some form of domestic violence. In our state, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have or will experience physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime. And children are affected too, witnessing domestic violence every 44 minutes in Arizona; and

**Whereas**, too often, domestic violence results in physical injury and even death. For others, though their scars may not be visible, they cause a lifetime of pain; and

**Whereas**, many domestic violence victims do not feel they will be believed. They do not trust they will be heard. They do not feel their own strength. As a result, they often suffer, sadly in deafening silence; and

**Whereas**, it is time to interrupt the silence! It is time to affirm and support those victimized by domestic violence. It is time to help them transform from victims to survivors-to thrivers; and

**Whereas**, we need to recognize the compassion and dedication of volunteers and professionals that are helping survivors to find their voices. This month provides yet another opportunity for residents to show support for the individuals and community partners who unselfishly advocate and serve.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Nancy Smith, Mayor of the City of Maricopa, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2024, as **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. All Maricopa residents are urged to observe this month by becoming aware of the tragedy of domestic violence and to support community efforts in working towards its end. Let us resolve to interrupt the silence.

Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 2024,

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Nancy Smith, Mayor