

Mayor Nancy Smith

Whereas, November 8th marked the 103rd anniversary of the founding of Zonta International in Buffalo, New York by courageous women who set out to work for gender equality and a better world; and

Whereas, Zonta International, a worldwide service organization of business and professional individuals dedicated to empowering women through service and advocacy, through its seat at the United Nations has played a leading role in initiatives that have positively affected the lives of women and girls throughout the world; and

Whereas, the Zonta club of Maricopa has been a staunch advocate for women and girls since its chartering in 1936 and continues to further its goals for the advancement of women, women's rights and gender equality through service and advocacy; and

Whereas, in 2005, Zonta International began an ongoing campaign called "Zonta Says No" and has worked every year since to bring attention to the important issue of gender violence; and

Whereas, the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence** beginning on November 25th, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and ending December 10th on International Human Rights Day, is a global call for action to end gender-based violence against women as it continues to be the most pervasive human rights violation and global epidemic afflicting millions of women and girls of all races and socioeconomic backgrounds; and

Whereas, Zontians urge everyone to join them in working to end violence against women and girls. No one person, organization or community can eliminate gender-based violence on their own; but working together to prevent such violence, supporting victims/survivors and their families and increasing support for agencies providing services to those community members is critical to ending gender violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nancy Smith, Mayor of the City of Maricopa, do hereby proclaim November 25-December 1-, 2022, as **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence** in the City of Maricopa, and along with the Zonta Club of Maricopa, encourage all citizens to work to end Gender Violence.

Dated this 6th Day of December 2022

Nancy Smith, Mayor