

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 that it affects far too many in our city, our state, and our country; and

Whereas, domestic violence reveals itself in many forms and claims many victims. In all its forms, domestic violence seeks to intimidate, dominate, and control; and

Whereas, across the United States, domestic violence crimes are staggering. Arizona ranks 4th in the nation for domestic violence. In our state, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men will experience physical violence from someone they trust. More heartbreaking, every 44 minutes a child in Arizona witnesses' domestic violence in their home. Too often, domestic violence results in injury, death and invisible wounds that last a lifetime; and

Whereas, behind every number is a person. Someone we may know, work with, and care about. A neighbor who might be suffering in silence. A child who goes to school worried about what they'll find when they get home; and

Whereas, many victims don't speak up because of fear of safety or are afraid they won't be believed. This causes feelings of isolation, shame and being trapped. Some may not recognize that what's happening is abuse because the marks are not always visible. It is time to break the silence, affirm survivors, and help them move from victims to thrivers; and

Whereas, the City of Maricopa is committed to visible action during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, including lighting the Pecan Tree at City Hall purple, distributing awareness ribbons, and supporting community events that spread education and hope; and

Whereas, we have incredible people in our community in law enforcement, volunteers, professionals, and advocates who show up every day for survivors. They remind them they are not alone, and that there is a path forward. But this can't just be their fight, it has to be ours too.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nancy Smith, Mayor of the City of Maricopa do hereby proclaim the month of October 2025 as **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** and encourage our residents to support community efforts in working toward its end.

Dated this 7th day of October 2025.

Nancy Smith, Mayor