

Mayor Nancy Smith

Whereas, domestic violence is not physical violence alone. Rather, domestic violence can be any learned behavior that has the purpose of gaining power and control over others. Victims and survivors can include spouses, partners, girl/boyfriends and intimate family members; and

Whereas, throughout the United States, domestic violence statistics are alarming. Arizona is suffering also. There are approximately 100 reported domestic violence-related deaths each year. Arizona ranks 4th in the nation in female domestic violence homicides. And every 44 minutes, one or more Arizona children witness domestic violence; and

Whereas, women, men, children and the elderly are all counted among the victims of domestic violence. Sadly, this includes physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence and emotional and financial abuse. Too often, domestic violence results in physical injury and death. For others, though their scars may not be visible, they are often permanent as well; and

Whereas, as we celebrate and support survivors, families and significant others, we also remember those we've lost and will never forget; and

Whereas, as no one person, organization, agency or community can eliminate domestic violence on their own, this month provides an opportunity for residents to show support for the individuals and community partners who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to survivors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nancy Smith, Mayor of the City of Maricopa, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2023 as **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** in the City of Maricopa. All residents are urged to observe this month by becoming aware of the tragedy of domestic violence and to support community efforts in working toward its end.

Dated this 3rd day of October 2023

Nancy Smith, Mayor