



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: Feb. 2017)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date:	10/25/18
Agenda Item #:	R.2
Est. Start Time:	9:45 a.m.
Date Submitted:	10/15/18

Agenda Title: Proclaiming October, 2018 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Multnomah County.

Requested Meeting Date:	October 25, 2018	Time Needed:	20 minutes
Department:	County Human Services	Division:	Youth & Family Services
Contact(s):	Peggy Samolinski		
Phone:	503-988-7453	Ext.	87453
Email:	peggy.l.samolinski@multco.us		
Presenters:	Peggy Samolinski, Director, DCHS Youth and Family Services Division and invited guests.		

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

We respectfully request that the Board of County Commissioners adopt the Proclamation declaring October 2018 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Multnomah County. The 2018 national theme is "Awareness + Action = Social Change," which focuses on the importance of voting and civic engagement as an essential part of raising awareness of domestic and sexual violence, and illustrating the connections between voting, advocacy, and informing public policies that impact survivors' lives.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer(s) this action affects and how it impacts the results.

In October 1987, the first official Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed nationally. Since then, our country has taken great strides in addressing domestic and sexual violence by supporting victims, holding abusers accountable, and creating and updating legislation to further those goals. In 1994, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) which funds state, tribal, and local governments, and non-profit organizations focused on ending violence against women. Over the last three decades, we've seen a dramatic expansion in services for victims of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and dating violence, and increased support

and resources for training and prevention efforts. Multnomah County has also directly funded and provided domestic violence services for many years.

Though national, state, and local programs continue to work to prevent and respond to violence, much work still remains to be done. Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a time to reflect on the progress we've made, honor survivors and their communities, and acknowledge the tremendous work that remains. As indicated in this year's theme, it is vital that everyone in our community does what they can to raise awareness of the impacts of domestic violence and take action in support of survivors.

Multnomah County has a long history of recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office organizes and coordinates community-wide events throughout the month bringing awareness to this important topic, recognizing the lives lost to domestic violence in the last year, and honoring those working in this field.

The Multnomah County Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office (DSVCO) provides a continuum of trauma-informed and culturally-responsive services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and other community members. The prevention and intervention strategies developed and coordinated by DSVCO are used by the City of Portland, Multnomah County, and by community agencies to promote individual, community, and societal level change. To thrive after abuse, survivors and their children need safe housing, flexible economic resources, and other support that promotes stability. DSVCO funds programs that provide ongoing connection with advocates, survivor support groups, economic empowerment programs, credit remediation assistance, housing, legal services and other supportive services.

Adopting the proclamation does not directly impact any program offer, but will help promote awareness of the issue of domestic and sexual violence, and the DSVCO programs in place to prevent it and help survivors heal.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

N/A.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

N/A.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place. The 2018 national theme is "Awareness + Action = Social Change," which focuses on the importance of voting and civic engagement as an essential part of raising awareness of domestic and sexual violence, and illustrating the connections between voting, advocacy, and informing public policies that impact survivors' lives. Multnomah County's Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation encourages community participation by urging all county residents to reflect upon this year's theme, and consider the impact that laws, policies, and elected officials have on the safety, health, economic security, and well-being of survivors.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department
Director:**

Peggy Brey /s/

Date:

10/15/2018
