



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised March 2016)

## Board Clerk Use Only

**Meeting Date:** 10/19/17  
**Agenda Item #:** R.3  
**Est. Start Time:** 11:10 am approx  
**Date Submitted:** 10/11/17

## Agenda Title: **Proclaiming October 2017 as Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Month in Multnomah County**

*Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but sufficient to describe the action requested. Title on APR must match title on Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation.*

### Requested

**Meeting Date:** October 19, 2017 **Time Needed:** 20 minutes

**Department:** County Human Services **Division:** Youth & Family Services

**Contact(s):** Rose Bak, Renee Huizinga

**Phone:** 503/988-7522 **Ext.** 87522 **I/O Address:** 167/2/200

**Presenter Name(s) & Title(s):** *Rose Bak, Co-Director, DCHS Youth and Family Services Division  
Tawna Sanchez, Director of Family Services, Native American Youth and Family Center  
Pam Haan, Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Services of Oregon*

## 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 2017 as Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Month in Multnomah County.

This year's proclamation is particularly meaningful as it recognizes 30 years of work raising awareness about the impact of domestic and sexual violence in our community. 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 and Sexual 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. Raising awareness is a key way to promote public understanding of these issues, make resources visible in the community, and reaffirm our commitments to prevent and respond to domestic and sexual violence in Multnomah County.

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

Domestic violence is a pattern of willful, coercive, controlling behavior that can include physical abuse, intimidation, emotional or psychological abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse and/or other abusive behavior. These behaviors are generally part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. Domestic and sexual violence affects millions and occurs across the lifespan: an estimated one in three women and one in seven men report experiencing severe physical abuse from an intimate partner in their lifetime; approximately one in five women in the U.S. have experienced a rape or attempted rape in their lifetime; nearly half of all women in the U.S. have experienced some form of sexual violence; and one in seven women and one in eighteen men have been stalked by an intimate partner during their lifetime to the point that they felt very fearful or felt that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed. Last year, over 60 people in Oregon died as a result of domestic violence. In 2017, this number is 27 people, to date.

One out of fifteen children will witness domestic or sexual violence. Children who are exposed to domestic and sexual violence may experience feelings of terror, isolation, guilt, helplessness, and grief. They are at higher risk of engaging in criminal behavior and substance abuse, and are more likely to become victims of crime and violence themselves.

Although anyone can be affected by domestic and sexual violence, the overall burden of this violence is not shared equally across all groups; many racial/ethnic and sexual minority groups are disproportionately affected by domestic and sexual violence, and people living with disabilities are at a significantly higher risk of victimization across the lifespan.

Domestic and sexual violence is highly prevalent, it's connected to other forms of violence, and comes with substantial health and economic consequences for survivors and the community at large.

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.**

N/A

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**Required Signature**

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**Elected  
Official or  
Department  
Director:**

Sharon Meieran /s/

**Date:**

10/11/17