



Proclamation

WHEREAS October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month;

WHEREAS domestic violence and sexual violence are interrelated forms of violence that share common risk factors according to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control;

WHEREAS domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence is a serious crime that affects people of all races, ages, gender, and income levels. On average 24 people per minute are victims of sexual assault, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States. Domestic violence does not discriminate, over the course of one year that equals more than 12 million men and women;

WHEREAS strangulation is, alarmingly, quite common in domestic violence. The Journal of Emergency Medicine indicates that 23% to 68% of female domestic violence victims experienced at least one strangulation-related incident from their abusive male partner during their lifetime;

WHEREAS domestic violence costs our nation billions of dollars annually in medical expenses, law enforcement, court costs, shelter, foster care, sick leave, and no-productivity;

WHEREAS children exposed to domestic violence are believed to be abused and neglected at a rate higher than the national average. According to the Department of Justice, nine out of ten children who are exposed to domestic violence in their lifetime are eyewitnesses to the event;

WHEREAS in a national survey by the Department of Justice, children exposed to violence may suffer from difficulties with attachment, regressive behavior, anxiety, depression, aggression, and conduct problems. They may also be more prone to dating violence, delinquency, further victimization, and involvement with the juvenile justice system;

WHEREAS only a coordinated community effort to educate all people and support victims and survivors will help bring awareness and prevent domestic violence. Prevention efforts should start by promoting and modeling healthy and respectful relationships and creating emotionally supportive home environments;

THEREFORE, I, Mayor Louise Carter-King, Mayor of the City of Gillette, Wyoming do hereby proclaim **October as "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH" in the City of Gillette** and urge all our citizens to work together, in taking a stand against domestic violence. When we prevent domestic violence, we promote safety within our families and community. If you witness or suspect domestic violence please contact our local law enforcement.

Louise Carter-King, Mayor

Karlene Abelseth, City Clerk
(Attested by)