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Clackamas County
www.clackamas.us



CLACKAMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

Sheriff James Rhodes

Jesse Ashby, Undersheriff

Lee Eby, Undersheriff

Brad O'Neil, Undersheriff

October 1, 2026

BCC Agenda Item: 10/1/26

Board of County Commissioners

Clackamas County

Approval of a Proclamation of October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Clackamas County. No County General Funds are involved.

Previous Board Action/Review: 2024 Proclamation and 2025 Proclamation

Performance Clackamas: Building trust through good government; and ensuring safe, healthy and secure communities.

Counsel Review: No

Procurement Review: No

Contact Person: Erin Henkelman

Contact Phone: 503-680-5545

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Domestic violence impacts millions of people each year, but it is preventable when individuals, families, institutions, and systems work collectively to support survivors and create safer communities. During October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), A Safe Place Family Justice Center (ASP-FJC) is joining the national effort to shift from awareness to action under this year's theme, "With Survivors, Always." In 2025, ASP-FJC provided support and advocacy to 3,916 survivors by phone and served 781 survivors accessing services in person for the first time, with 3,875 total service visits. Staff also assisted 561 survivors seeking protective orders, with 86% approved.

Throughout the year, ASP-FJC partners have strengthened community outreach and collaboration while working to secure critical resources for survivors on their journeys to safety and healing. This includes a \$12,500 award through Uber's HOPE Rides

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program, in partnership with Clackamas Women's Services, to provide transportation for survivors in Clackamas County. These collaborative efforts help address practical barriers survivors may face while connecting with services, attending appointments, accessing court, or taking steps toward safety.

Clackamas County also continues to demonstrate leadership in improving the response to strangulation, a dangerous and often overlooked form of domestic violence. The Clackamas County Strangulation Response Initiative is hosting a five-day, multidisciplinary webinar series focused on improving the response to strangulation, a dangerous and often overlooked form of domestic violence. The training brings together law enforcement, prosecution, advocacy, medical professionals, and other disciplines to provide comprehensive, in-depth information on identification, investigation, and response. The webinar will be recorded to expand access to this important training and ensure the information can be shared broadly with professionals throughout the county and beyond.

"With Survivors, Always," reminds us that survivors deserve safety, support, and solidarity—and that creating a community where survivors can thrive requires all of us to take action. Everyone has a role to play, whether that means being a caring and consistent adult in a child's life, talking with loved ones about healthy relationships and the warning signs of abuse, creating a culture of consent at home, using social media to raise awareness, or donating time, goods, or resources to local domestic violence programs. As a community, we can stand with survivors, challenge the conditions that allow abuse to continue, and make sure survivors know they are not alone. At A Safe Place, we are committed to being with survivors, always.

RECOMMENDATION: The Sheriff's Office respectfully requests the Board of County Commissioners proclaim October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James A. Rhodes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Rhodes" clearly legible.

James Rhodes
Sheriff

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Erin Henkelman". The signature is cursive and elegant, with the first name "Erin" and last name "Henkelman" clearly legible.

Erin Henkelman
Director, A Safe Place Family Justice Center

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY, STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of Proclaiming October 2026 as
Domestic Violence Awareness Month in
Clackamas County



Board Order No.

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Whereas, Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) is a national campaign dedicated to raising awareness about domestic violence, and each October communities across the country come together to uplift the needs, voices, and experiences of survivors; and

Whereas, domestic violence is a serious crime and pervasive public health, safety, and human rights concern, affecting individuals and families across all backgrounds, ages, races, genders, income levels, and communities; and

Whereas, 1,110 victims of domestic violence requested a protection order in Clackamas County in 2025; and

Whereas, 781 victims accessed wrap-around services for the first time at A Safe Place Family Justice Center, for a total of 3,875 visits in 2025; and

Whereas, survivors deserve to be heard, believed, respected, and supported, with access to the resources, services, and opportunities necessary to achieve safety, stability, healing, and hope for themselves and their children; and

Whereas, those who perpetrate domestic violence must be held accountable, and our community must continue to challenge the attitudes and behaviors that minimize or normalize violence; and

Whereas, Clackamas county stands with survivors, recognizes their strength and resilience, and is committed to building a community where every person can live with safety, dignity, respect, and freedom from violence; and

Whereas, Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2026 calls on communities to move **from awareness to action**, strengthening our commitment to survivors and taking meaningful steps to remove barriers to safety, support prevention, and ensure survivors and their children have access to the resources they need;

Whereas, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for people to learn more about preventing domestic violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victims;

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY, STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of Proclaiming October 2026 as
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NOW THEREFORE, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners do hereby order

DATED this 1 day of October 2026

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair

Recording Secretary