



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 7002
October 6, 2026
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 7002: Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Proclamation No. 398	☐ Discussion Only ☒ Action Needed: ☒ Motion ☐ Ordinance ☐ Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve Proclamation No. 398 Proclaiming October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month on Mercer Island.	

DEPARTMENT:	Youth and Family Services
STAFF:	Mayor David Rosenbaum Derek Franklin, YFS Administrator
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 398
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to proclaim October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month on Mercer Island (Exhibit 1).

BACKGROUND

Each October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month is recognized nationally and highlights the importance of preventing domestic violence through awareness, direct action, and support for survivors. The theme for the 2026 Domestic Violence Awareness Month is “With Survivors, Always” to emphasize a solidarity with survivors and to support a culture of security where survivors are heard, believed, and empowered. The theme is carried forward from 2025 to emphasize the importance of a continual, year-round commitment to taking action.

Domestic violence is defined as the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, or other abusive behavior as part of a systemic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It can include overt physical or sexual violence and threats as well as covert economic/ emotional/ psychological abuse and patterns of excessively controlling behavior.

More prevalent than often perceived in the United States, 61% of women and 45% of men have experienced intimate partner violence or abuse from a spouse or romantic partner. Every minute in the United States, 20 people experience intimate partner violence. According to King County Public Health, 2025 saw a surge in the number of deaths attributed to domestic violence that officials linked to cuts in services and federal supports which highlights the need for ongoing services.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Mercer Island is not immune to the epidemic of domestic violence, and the impact it has on individuals, families, and the community. Vulnerable populations can be at elevated risk for domestic violence, including youth, seniors, immigrants, people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Proclaiming October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month can help raise awareness, decrease stigma about getting help, and sends a message of support to survivors.

The City's Department of Youth and Family Services (YFS) provides counseling support for survivors and those currently experiencing or concerned about intimate partner violence. Signs of an abusive relationship include control, isolation, constant criticism, financial control, threats, inappropriate blame, monitoring or tracking, forced or pressured sex, damaging belongings, and intentional creation of fear. YFS outpatient and school-based counselors and case managers are resources for Mercer Island residents seeking information, referral, or counseling supports related to domestic violence.

Anyone concerned about intimate partner violence, abuse, or relationship safety can also access free and confidential help at [LifeWire](#) at 425-562-8840 for victim advocacy, safety planning, and housing stability services. The National Domestic Abuse Hotline offers 24/7 support at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or by texting "START" to 88788. Mercer Island residents impacted by domestic violence can contact the YFS Intake and Confidential Voicemail Line at 206-275-7657.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Proclamation No. 398 proclaiming October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month on Mercer Island.