



MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
October 2024

This October, the Borough of Petersburg, Alaska acknowledges the injustices endured by survivors, often in silence, as they navigate the complex, painful, and violent realities that occur when one person uses their power to dominate and harm another. We denounce all forms of domestic violence, and we call on all of Petersburg's citizens to join us in commemorating October 2024 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

We acknowledge the prevalence of domestic violence in our communities. In Alaska, nearly half of women experience violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime, and 38% of female homicide victims were killed by current or former intimate partners. It's not only women who experience domestic violence: one in five Alaska adults of any gender reported experiencing physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime.

We acknowledge the serious consequences of domestic violence, which causes significant physical, emotional, psychological, and economic harm to victims as well as their families and communities, often with long-term negative health outcomes.

We acknowledge that domestic violence affects more than the victim. Research reveals that children exposed to violence are "more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol; suffer from depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic disorders; fail or have difficulty in school; and become delinquent and engage in criminal behavior." When we consider the ripple effects of domestic violence, we must also count the broader burden on society as a whole through lost workforce productivity and the strain it places on social support systems.

We acknowledge the intersectionality of domestic violence – that people who experience other forms of oppression or discrimination are at higher risk due to the compounded effects of historical trauma and their marginalized positions in society. We acknowledge that, in order to work to end domestic violence, we must also work to end other forms of oppression.

We acknowledge the important work being done by victim advocates in our community, as well as healthcare providers, law enforcement, and emergency response teams, all of whom play a critical role in supporting survivors of domestic violence.

Everyone deserves to live without violence in their home and in their community. Working Against Violence for Everyone - WAVE - invites all Petersburg residents to wear purple on Thursday, October 17 to raise awareness about domestic violence and to show support for survivors in our families and in our community.

Therefore, I, Mark Jensen, Mayor of Petersburg Borough, hereby proclaim October 2024 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and October 17, 2024 as Wear Purple Day.

Proclaimed this 7th day of October 2024

Mark Jensen, Mayor