



## MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

### **#1Thing** **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH** **OCTOBER 2019**

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is nationally recognized each October through educational events, community gatherings, and support groups. The Domestic Violence Awareness Project recently developed a unified theme: **#1Thing**. The purpose of this campaign is to remind everyone that **ending domestic violence starts with just one small action**, whether that is seeking help or sharing resources.

The impact of domestic violence is wide ranging, directly affecting individuals and society as a whole, here in Petersburg, throughout Alaska, throughout the United States and throughout the world.

Studies show nearly 30% of Alaskans are unable to access victim services or encourage others to do so because of a lack of services in their area. Safe housing continues to be rated as domestic violence survivors' most urgent need. Petersburg is blessed to have our local Working Against Violence for Everyone (WAVE) organization to advocate for domestic violence victims.

The Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey reports that forty percent of women in Alaska experience intimate partner violence during their lifetime. Applying that statistic to Petersburg means that more than 400 women in our community have experienced intimate partner violence. (Note: Due to the absence of domestic violence reports/surveys regarding other genders, statistical data for other genders in Alaska is unavailable.)

Domestic violence impacts millions of people each year, but it can be prevented by the collective voice and power of individuals, families, institutions and systems – each whose **#1Thing** adds a valuable component to transforming our communities.

Petersburg joins with other communities across Alaska and the nation in supporting victims of domestic violence. We support local programs, state coalitions, and national organizations and agencies who are committed to increasing public awareness of domestic violence. **We wish to send a clear message to abusers that domestic violence is not tolerated in Petersburg.**

In support of the **#1Thing** theme, I, Mark Jensen, Petersburg's Borough Mayor, hereby proclaim October 2019 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urge all Petersburg citizens to actively participate in scheduled activities and programs sponsored year-round by our local WAVE office and other community organizations to work toward the **elimination of intimate partner violence.**

**Proclaimed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019.**

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**Mark Jensen, Mayor**