



MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

#PowerUp DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER 2020

The Petersburg Borough, in recognition of the critical work being done by domestic violence victim advocates and allies, encourage all citizens to actively engage in the scheduled Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities in October organized by Working Against Violence for Everyone (WAVE) and other national organizations working towards the eradication of domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is nationally recognized each October to generate awareness of violence and to promote taking action. This October the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence developed a unified theme: #PowerUp. The purpose of the #PowerUp campaign is to remind everyone of their power as individuals and as part of a larger collective, working toward eliminating domestic violence.

Alaska has the highest rates of domestic violence in the country and this impacts our local community on a daily basis. These are our neighbors, friends, and family. This year is critical; one of the many consequences of the pandemic is a global increase of domestic violence rates. It is no different in Petersburg - by the end of August 2020 the number of individuals served had surpassed the number of individuals served in all of 2019.

One in three women and one in four men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner. But domestic violence is not always physical violence, it includes emotional, sexual and/or financial abuse and can often go unseen by friends and family. It impacts millions of people each year, but it can be prevented by the collective voice and power of individuals, families, institutions and systems.

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. #PowerUp this October to learn more and raise awareness about domestic violence. One simple way we can collectively #PowerUp is by wearing purple on October 22nd, Wear Purple Thursday, to send a clear message to abusers that domestic violence is not tolerated in Petersburg.

Therefore, I, Mark Jensen, Mayor of Petersburg Borough, hereby proclaim October 2020 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and October 22, 2020 as Wear Purple Thursday.

Proclaimed this 5th day of October, 2020.

Mark Jensen, Mayor