



**REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: October 7, 2008

SUBJECT: Domestic Violence Awareness Month

**Report in Brief**

Domestic Violence is an issue in Woodland, as well as other communities throughout our country. Raising public awareness to issues such as domestic violence helps direct resources such as funding and volunteers; raises consciousness within the community to report perceived domestic violence and lend a hand to victims; and recognizes those who serve in the community to reduce the impacts. Recognition of this issue by the City Council will generate additional public awareness of services available to those who may be affected.

Staff recommends that the City Council proclaim October 2008 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

**Background**

October is proclaimed Domestic Violence Awareness month throughout our country. The most effective way to reduce the impacts of domestic violence is to engage in prevention and education efforts. Throughout the month of October, staff and volunteers of the Yolo County Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Center in partnership with the Woodland Police Department will be active in our community to enlist help in stopping the circle of violence often created by domestic violence. This public proclamation by the Council is another example of this City's commitment to reduce the number of domestic violence incidents in our community.

**Fiscal Impact**

This action has no direct fiscal impact.

**Public Contact**

This action was coordinated with the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Center of Yolo County.  
Posting of council agenda.

**Recommendation for Action**

Staff recommends that the City Council Proclaim October 2008 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Prepared by: Carey F. Sullivan  
Chief of Police

---

Mark G. Deven  
City Manager

# City of Woodland

## PROCLAMATION - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH - OCTOBER 2008

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Bureau of Justice, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and National Coalition Against Domestic Violence have declared domestic violence as the number 1 public health issue facing women and children in the U.S. today; and,

**WHEREAS**, battering is the greatest single cause of injury to women in the U.S., more than muggings, rapes and auto accidents combined, and the leading cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44; and,

**WHEREAS**, 1 out of every 4 women in this country will experience domestic violence in their lifetime, yet only about 1/3 of these victims seek medical help; and,

**WHEREAS**, more than 1 million women each year visit emergency rooms with injuries from domestic violence, accounting for 22% to 35% of all women who visit emergency rooms; and,

**WHEREAS**, approximately 25% of pregnant women seeking prenatal care have been battered during their pregnancy often resulting in premature births, developmental delays and disabilities for the infant as a result of battering during pregnancy; and,

**WHEREAS**, 45% of domestic violence victims live in households with children younger than 12 and in 66% of violent homes where the female partner is beaten, so are the children; and,

**WHEREAS**, health care expenses from domestic violence cost U.S. corporations between \$3-5 billion annually; and,

**WHEREAS**, 75% of all 911 calls are domestic abuse calls; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Center (SADVC) has provided emergency shelter and services to victims of domestic violence and their children for 31 years; and,

**WHEREAS**, from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, SADVC provided emergency shelter to 91 women and 90 children; counseling and therapy for 326 victims of domestic violence and 43 child victims; legal assistance with 155 restraining orders and court accompaniment for 228 victims; prevention education for 3,417 youth in our local schools; and,

**WHEREAS**, in this same year, the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Center, in a comprehensive approach toward ending the cycle of violence, did successfully graduate 42 batterers from a 52 week, court ordered, Alternatives to Violence program; and,

**WHEREAS**, the month of October is recognized nationally as Domestic Violence Awareness Month providing a concerted campaign toward healthier, more peaceful communities through greater awareness, prevention, intervention and treatment for domestic violence victims and their families.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the City Council of the City of Woodland does hereby declare the month of October to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008

---

Marlin H. Davies, Mayor

Artemio Pimentel, Vice-Mayor

Martie L. Dote, Council Member

William L. Marble, Council Member

Jeff W. Monroe, Council Member