



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Session Agenda Review Form

Meeting date: October 11, 2023

Department: Board of Commissioners

Title: 26th Annual National Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Week proclamation.

Agenda Planning Date: 9/28/2023 Management Update/Work Session Date: N/A Audio/Visual aids [checked]

Time Required: 20 min Contact: Brenda Koenig Phone: 503-589-3236

Requested Action: Approve a proclamation designating the week of October 15-21, 2023, as National Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Week in Marion County.

Issue, Description & Background: Designating the week of October 15-21, 2023 as National Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Week in Marion County. The Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Project began in 1997 in an effort to educate children and adults about abuse and violence in our homes, our classrooms, and our communities. The project has expanded since its inception in 1997, to all 50 United States and to 11 foreign countries. The powerful Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting pledge reminds every community member to not use violence, but rather to show respect and equality to not only ourselves but also others.

Financial Impacts: None.

Impacts to Department & External Agencies: None.

List of attachments: Proclamation

Presenter: Ann Kelly, Founder and Executive Director, Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Project, and Denyc Boles, Salem Health Hospitals and Clinics

Department Head Signature: [Handwritten signature]

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR MARION COUNTY, OREGON**

In the matter of proclaiming October 15-21, 2023, as National Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Week in Marion County.

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** a community without abuse, violence, and suicide is a dream we all share; and
- WHEREAS,** any form of mistreatment of another is abuse and all people have the moral and legal right to live free of abuse and violence; and
- WHEREAS,** each of us must come to understand that it is within our personal power to choose not to use abuse and violence to resolve conflict; and
- WHEREAS,** we recognize that respect for ourselves and others is key to developing healthy relationships at every age and in all circumstances; and
- WHEREAS,** the principle of non-violent resolution of conflict must be taught to our children and practiced within each of our families; and
- WHEREAS,** verbal and emotional abuse can be just as damaging as physical violence to a person's self-worth, creating scars that are carried for the rest of his/her life; and
- WHEREAS,** verbal abuse such as name calling, insulting, and belittling frequently escalates into simple force like pushing, grabbing or slapping, and the worst scenario is the escalation to rage, serious violence, and even murder; and
- WHEREAS,** self-harm and suicide must be acknowledged as a serious public health crisis as the numbers of victims continues to escalate in children, teens, and adults; and
- WHEREAS,** we, the commissioners of Marion County, together with communities around the country and overseas, recognize the Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Project's Purple Hands Pledge® is an effective tool in abuse, violence, and suicide prevention education; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Marion County Board of Commissioners, does hereby proclaim the week of October 15th through 21st, 2023, to be the 26th Annual National

HANDS & WORDS ARE NOT FOR HURTING WEEK

in Marion County, and encourage all citizens of Marion County to join hands and hearts to unite as a family and a community to pledge, both privately and publicly, that

“I Will Not Use My Hands Or My Words For Hurting Myself Or Others”®

Dated this 11th day of October, 2023.



O R E G O N

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson _____

Commissioner _____

Commissioner _____