



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Session Agenda Review Form

Meeting date: October 7, 2026

Department: Board of Commissioners

Title:

29th Annual Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Week proclamation

Management Update/Work Session Date: August 18, 2026 Audio/Visual aids ☐

Time Required: 10 minutes Contact: Brenda Phone: (503) 589-3236

Requested Action:

Consider approving a proclamation designating the week of October 18-24, 2026, as Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Week in Marion County.

Issue, Description
& Background:

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, and Ariana Jahanshir, Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Project;

Department Head
Signature:

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

In the matter of proclaiming October 18-24, 2026, 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 number 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 that 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, we the Marion County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of October 18 through 24, 2026, to be the 29th annual **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 7th day of October 2026.

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson _____

Commissioner _____

Commissioner _____