

Press Release

LAKE CITY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



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Chief of Police Gerald Butler

For Immediate Release

October 6, 2023

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Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Three Rivers Legal Services and Another Way have generously provided the Lake City Police Department with symbolic purple ribbons in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. These ribbons will be worn by department personnel throughout the month, representing our commitment to raising awareness about domestic violence and facilitating access to essential resources.

Domestic violence, as defined by the Department of Justice, is "a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner." This reprehensible pattern encompasses physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological, and technological abuse, as well as threats and coercive behaviors that inflict harm on individuals within intimate partner relationships. Such behaviors may include intimidation, manipulation, humiliation, isolation, terrorization, coercion, threats, blame, harm, injury, or emotional wounds.

Startling statistics from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reveal that nearly 20 people per minute suffer physical abuse by an intimate partner in the United States.

Chief of Police Gerald Butler emphasizes the importance of collective action, stating, "Even if we are unaware of the occurrence, we all know someone who has been a victim of domestic violence. Through the simple yet powerful act of wearing purple ribbons, we aspire to bring increased attention to the issue of domestic violence and share vital information about available resources within our community."

If you or someone you know is affected by domestic violence, immediate assistance is available through the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233, and support via SMS can be accessed by texting START to 88788. Locally, victims can reach out to Another Way's 24-hour helpline at 866-875-7983.

To learn more about organizations committed to combating domestic violence and access additional resources, please visit the following websites:

Another Way: <https://www.anotherwayinc.net/index.html>

Department of Justice: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/domestic-violence>

Florida Department of Children and Families: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/abuse/domestic-violence>

Three Rivers Legal Services: <https://www.trls.org/>



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