



**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING – COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS REPORT**

TO: THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: KIM CARR, MAYOR  
NATALIE MOSER, CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

DATE: OCTOBER 19, 2021

**SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE CITY RECOGNIZE OCTOBER AS NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH, WHILE REAFFIRMING OUR CITY'S COMMITMENT AGAINST BULLYING**

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October is National Bullying Prevention Month (NBPM). This month-long event is a time for communities to work together to prevent bullying in all forms by increasing awareness of its prevalence and impact on children and people of all ages. NBPM is also an opportunity to promote kindness, acceptance, respect, and inclusion.

Bullying is defined as the use of force, coercion, or threat, to abuse, aggressively dominate or intimidate. The behavior is often habitual. It is characterized by hostile intent, perceived imbalance of power either socially or physically, and repetition over a period of time. Research has shown that bullying often leaves lasting negative effects, including chronic depression, increased risk of suicidal thoughts, anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, poor general health, self-harm, substance abuse, and difficulty establishing trusting, reciprocal relationships. Research has also shown that many people who exhibit bullying behaviors have themselves been the victims of bullying in the past.

In 2012, the City Council requested that the Human Relations Task Force conduct a study on bullying in Huntington Beach, which led to the approval of a *Proclamation of the City Council Against Bullying* (see attached). Additionally, the City has adopted and reaffirmed a Declaration of Policy about Human Dignity, which states that everyone should be treated with courtesy and respect.

It is important to emphasize that bullying is not only isolated as a childhood problem, but affects adolescents and adults, as well. In this moment of rising tensions and divisions within both our nation and our community, we have witnessed increased aggressive behaviors and bullying tactics being used by some groups and individuals. We firmly believe that our City Council should support efforts to raise awareness regarding the harms that occur as a result of these behaviors, and that, as leaders, we model and encourage positive ways for us to treat each other, regardless of our differences of opinion.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

We recommend the City Council endorse an ongoing commitment to addressing bullying in all its forms by recognizing October as National Bullying Prevention Month, and that we reaffirm the City's Commitment to its 2012 *Proclamation of the City Council Against Bullying*.