Renton and Nishiwaki to celebrate 50 years as Sister Cities

Next week, Renton will host a delegation from Nishiwaki, Japan, to celebrate the 50-year sister city relationship between the two cities. The delegation will visit Renton from October 16th to 19th. The display case in the City Hall lobby highlights the 50-year relationship between Renton and Nishiwaki, Japan.

Police look at adding body cameras

Renton’s Police Department is in the preliminary stages of outfitting their officers with body cameras. The addition of body cameras will be a significant step towards increasing public trust by offering an unbiased video recording of interactions between officers and the public. They can help refute or substantiate complaints as well as reduce investigation time and resources. But most importantly, body cameras can enhance officer safety, discourage police misconduct, and provide greater accountability.

Police look at adding body cameras

Renton’s Police Department is in the preliminary stages of outfitting their officers with body cameras. Adding the cameras will be a significant step for the department and one that will protect both the officers and our residents. Studies have shown body cameras help increase transparency and public trust by offering an unbiased video recording of interactions between officers and the public. They can help refute or substantiate complaints as well as reduce investigation time and resources. But most importantly, body cameras can enhance officer safety, discourage police misconduct, and provide greater accountability.

I will keep you informed as we move forward and develop implementation procedures.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS Month in Renton. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports that in the United States:

» Nearly 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime.
» Between 94 and 99% of domestic violence survivors have also experienced economic abuse.
» 1 in every 6 women and 1 out of every 19 men have been stalked in their lifetime.
» 1 in 3 female murder victims and 1 in 20 male murder victims are killed by intimate partners.
» Every year, approximately 4 million older Americans are victims of physical, psychological and/or other forms of abuse and neglect.
» Nearly 1.5 million high school students are physically abused by dating partners every year.

Domestic violence is a crime that knows no boundaries. It affects all ages, genders, nationalities, and incomes. Its effects are both immediate (physical injury, psychological trauma, and death) and long term (increased stress levels, depression, and substance abuse).

The Renton Police Department has a Domestic Violence Victim Advocate on staff to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence who live within the city limits. If you or someone you know are the victim of domestic violence, please call our advocate at (425) 430-6654. If you are in imminent danger, please call 9-1-1.

When you visit City Hall in October, you’ll see the Cherry trees decorated with purple lights. In the lobby, there are life-size silhouettes with the stories of Renton residents who were domestic violence victims. These are important reminders of the horrors of domestic violence, but we all need to work together to stop the violence. Please do your part.

Renton and Nishiwaki to celebrate 50 years as Sister Cities

IT WILL BE A VERY EXCITING TIME next week as Renton hosts a delegation from Nishiwaki, Japan, in celebration of our 50-year sister city relationship. The delegation, led by Nishiwaki Mayor Shozo Katayama, will be in Renton from Oct. 16-19.