



Memorandum

TO: Public Safety, Finance and
Strategic Support Committee

FROM: Norberto Dueñas

SUBJECT: **ACTIVITY REPORT ON DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM**

DATE: December 3, 2010

Approved

Deanna Antea

Date

12/3/10

RECOMMENDATION

Acceptance of the status report on Domestic Violence Prevention Program by the Public Safety, Finance, and Strategic Support Committee.

BACKGROUND

The City Manager's Office (CMO) is responsible for the development and implementation of activities and policies related to the prevention of violence against women and girls on behalf of the City of San José. The CMO has a designated Executive Analyst who acts in the capacity of the City's Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinator and administers this program primarily through support and collaboration with the following efforts:

- The City of San José's Family/Domestic Violence Advisory Board
- Services and efforts provided through the City's Family Violence Center
- Partnerships and collaborative efforts with other city departments and local domestic violence service providers and policy coalitions, including the County of Santa Clara's Domestic Violence Council and the Office of Women's Policy

ANALYSIS

The following activities highlight notable achievements of the Domestic Violence Prevention Program in the past year:

Family/Domestic Violence Advisory Board

Joint City/ County Domestic Violence Meeting

The City's Family/Domestic Violence Advisory Board met with the County's Domestic Violence Council on February 5, 2010. The two coordinating entities identified projects collaboratively work on over the next two years in an effort to leverage resources and advance our mutual goal of raising awareness about issues and resources available to effectively address violence against women and girls. In addition, identified joint efforts including the development of a new model for the Family Violence Center that could include expanded collaborative partnerships and services; institutionalizing effective

domestic violence education and training across systems; and improving how local domestic violence related data is collected and used to identify trends and emerging needs. Stakeholders from the City of San Jose, Santa Clara County and community-based service organizations have been working on developing strategies to advance these issues.

City Response to Domestic Violence Related Fatalities

Data collected by the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office and the Domestic Violence Council's Death Review Committee confirms that the majority of domestic violence related deaths that occur in Santa Clara County occur in San José. With direction from the City Manager, a crisis response protocol was developed to enhance the support that is offered to specific neighborhoods and communities where the domestic violence related deaths occur.

Annual Walk to End Domestic Violence

The 12th Annual Walk to End Domestic Violence was held on October 8, 2010. The purpose of this annual event is to raise awareness about domestic violence and highlight local resources available to address this issue. The featured speaker at the event was NFL Hall of Famer Ronnie Lott. Community members, service providers, law enforcement and criminal justice representatives, public officials and policy makers once again came together in support of the walk. This year's event attracted approximately 800 attendees and 30 community-based organizations.

Women and Girls Summit

The County of Santa Clara partnered with the City of San José and other local community and business partners to present *Women and Girls 2010: Thriving in the New Economy* from December 2nd- December 4th. For young women and girls (12-18 years old), the summit will be held in the Rotunda at San José City Hall. This event will bring together 300 women and men who are policy makers, community and business leaders, and activists from throughout Silicon Valley who are committed in creating and sustaining a countywide initiative that will serve to achieve equality and increase opportunities for women and girls.

San José Family Violence Center

The Family Violence Center's primary purpose is to provide crisis intervention services to victims and families who are experiencing abuse. From January- October of this year, San José Police Department officials in the Family Violence Center received 2,232 domestic violence cases and 895 threat management cases. The Center also provides prevention and education services in the form of community education workshops, trainings, and presentations to various community groups at and resource fairs and community events throughout the community.

In addition to participating in various community resource fairs and events, staff from the Family Violence Center conducted the following domestic violence/child abuse trainings/informational seminars:

- Domestic Violence and Teen Dating Course at O'Connor Hospitals Career Academy (February 2010)
- Assisted University of Denver Sturm College of Law with research regarding policy and procedure in cross reporting of DV incidents involving children to CPS.
- Domestic Violence and Information & Resources (DVIR) Workshop- East Side Union High School District (February 2010)
- West Valley College Administration of Justice Class (May 2010)
- "Stalking" (Threat Management) Training- Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence (June 2010)
- DV Training to SJPD Bureau of Field Officers Patrol at every Shift Change (March 2010 and June 2010)
- "Police Response to Domestic Violence" Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence Advocate Training (September 2010)
- Presentation at San José State University Intimate Partner Violence Class (October 2010)
- Assisted in the planning and program development of Domestic Violence Information and Resources Workshop- City of Mountain View's Human Relations Committee (October 2010)
- Presented as panelists at the 2010 Santa Clara County Annual Domestic Violence Conference: Risk Assessment and Domestic Violence Conference (October 2010)

Increased Elder Abuse Outreach and Advocacy Efforts

The Family Violence Center has secured grant funding to allow a victim advocate to work out of the Center one day a week to provide outreach and advocacy services to elder abuse victims in San José and to collaborate with detectives in the SJPD Elder and Child Abuse Unit. The five year \$125,000 per year grant was awarded to Silicon Valley FACES Victim Witness from the California Emergency Management Agency. These enhanced services will allow elderly victims of family/domestic violence to access additional supportive services and resources.

Family Violence Center Relocation

The City Manager's Office (CMO) is evaluating alternative spaces that are more conducive to providing services to victims of domestic violence and their families. The current facility has a number of issues that pose challenges to existing staff, community service providers and clients who seek services at the facility including the lack of convenient public transportation to the facility. The CMO will continue to make this effort a top priority over the next year.

City Receives Funding to Assist Incarcerated DV Victims

In September 2010, the San José Housing Department, in collaboration with the Santa Clara Department of Correction and the Santa Clara Office of Women's Policy, has been awarded a \$400,000 grant by the Office of Justice Programs, through the U.S. Department of Justice to fund the Skills to Succeed Prisoner Re-Entry Project. In an effort to reduce the recidivism

rate, this one year pilot project will utilize a multi-agency, public-private approach to assisting 50 women who are incarcerated or are ex-offenders to become self-sufficient, reconnect to the community, find employment and housing.

Domestic Violence Services Impacted by Economy

As is the case with many local community-based service providers, local Family/Domestic Violence service providers have been severely impacted by the current economic recession. A direct result of this is that the Support Network for Battered Women merged with the YWCA of Silicon Valley in January 2010 and became the YWCA Support Network. Preservation of the services provided is essential given that 80% of the women housed in the YWCA Support Network's emergency shelter are from San José.

COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the San José Police Department and the Housing Department.



NORBERTO DUEÑAS
Deputy City Manager

If you have any inquiries with regard to this update, please contact Eve Castellanos, Executive Analyst, at 535-8101.