



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 12

Issue Date: October 1, 2015

Subject: Domestic Violence Services

Communities are strengthened when families are free of violence. Domestic violence is a destructive crime that weakens the stability of our neighborhoods. Children exposed to violence in the home are more likely to become victims or perpetrators themselves, thereby continuing the cycle of violence over generations. The City of Los Angeles is committed to honoring the basic rights of all Angelenos to live and thrive free from violence and abuse.

Congress adopted the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 1994. VAWA expanded the support available to victims of domestic violence in a number of critical ways, including the establishment of a national hotline, improvements to the criminal justice system, and specialized training for law enforcement to increase understanding of the unique challenges that victims face. The City of Los Angeles allocated critical resources and services to victims including the creation of the Domestic Violence Task Force, Domestic Abuse Response Teams (DART), and Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART).

Earlier this year, in response to increases in the reporting of domestic violence crimes, I expanded the DART program from the original ten Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Divisions to all twenty-one LAPD geographic Divisions. The DART program is now operational across Los Angeles.

Despite this progress, there is much work to be done. In 2014, the LAPD received 47,666 domestic violence calls for service. More than 15,000 domestic violence crimes were reported in 2014, and the first half of 2015 showed an increase in domestic violence crimes reported. Furthermore, those reporting numbers are likely lower than actual incidents of domestic violence, as domestic and intimate partner violence remain

among the most underreported crimes nationally.

The City of Los Angeles is a leader in the provision of services and support to victims of domestic violence. The commitment to the City-wide expansion of the DART program is one such example. However, there is additional work that must be done, both in the establishment of large-scale programs to support victims further, and in prevention, education, and awareness campaigns.

At the national level, an example of an innovative, large-scale programmatic effort to support victims of domestic violence and their families is the Family Justice Center model. These facilities co-locate law enforcement alongside civil legal services, forensic medical evidentiary examiners, and mental health and social service professionals so that victims can access in one facility all services needed to rebuild their lives. There are only eighty such centers nationwide, of which one is in Los Angeles.

The City must continuously seek to employ strategic approaches to ensure that every resident is free to live, learn, and thrive in safety and security. The City must expand educational programming for domestic violence prevention and awareness to all Angelenos. All City Departments must come together to identify the next steps in expanding and coordinating support services and programs to serve victims of domestic violence and to identify the necessary steps to end the cycle of violence.

I recognize that different City Departments must employ different strategies to achieve success. But participation from every Department is critical to bring about positive change.

Accordingly, I hereby order the following:

- Each General Manager or Head of Department/Office shall designate a Domestic Violence Prevention Liaison for the Department/Office. Pursuant to my Executive Directive No. 11, each General Manager or Head of Department/Office has designated a Gender Equity Liaison for the Department/Office. The Gender Equity Liaisons shall also serve as Domestic Violence Prevention Liaisons unless a General Manager or Head of Department/Office designates a different Domestic Violence Prevention Liaison, in which case the General Manager or Head of Department/Office shall notify my Office of that person's name and contact information (including when there is a subsequent personnel change or change to that person's contact information).
- I hereby create the Mayor's Working Group Against Domestic Violence, which shall be comprised of the departmental Domestic Violence Prevention Liaisons and representatives from and designated by my Office. Each General Manager or Head of Department/Office shall ensure departmental Domestic Violence Prevention Liaison representation at regular Mayor's Working Group Against

Domestic Violence meetings held by my Office.

- The Mayor's Working Group Against Domestic Violence shall:
 - coordinate, implement, and evaluate efforts to prevent domestic violence;
 - review and monitor all plans required by this Executive Directive;
 - identify opportunities to leverage existing resources and capacity to expand domestic violence programs;
 - develop a plan to establish three additional Family Justice Centers so that there is one in each of the four LAPD geographic Bureaus (the LAPD, the General Services Department, and the City Administrative Officer shall lead this effort and I ask the City Council and the City Attorney to join this effort); and
 - ensure that the City's policies and programs support the most robust domestic violence prevention and intervention services possible.
- By March 1, 2016, each General Manager or Head of Department/Office shall submit to my Office an Action Plan Against Domestic Violence to implement a strategy that identifies ways to support victims of domestic violence and to raise awareness regarding domestic violence prevention and resources available to the public.

Executed this 1st day of October 2015.



ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor