

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 6, 2020

TO Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT **Response to recommendations from the Domestic Violence Task Force**

In order to assist in the mayor's realization of a 25% reduction in domestic violence-related aggravated assaults over the next three years, the Dallas Police Department will play the following role in fulfilling the recommendations presented by the Domestic Violence Taskforce. These recommendations include: creating domestic violence training videos and aides for patrol officers, providing on-going training for detectives, better serving multi-cultural & diverse populations, hiring a caseworker to assist with outreach and community education, as well as provide transportation to shelters when needed, help decrease severe injury or death to victims.

Training

To ensure that Dallas police officers have adequate training and tools needed to respond appropriately to domestic violence incidents, DPD will enlist the help of the Inservice Academy to create domestic violence training videos and aides (on an array of domestic violence topics) that can be easily accessed by patrol officers if a refresher is needed.

Currently, the domestic violence section of the District Attorney's office is partnered with the Domestic Violence Unit, providing training on topics specific to DV investigations and case filing. Will have established training videos available by March 2021.

Better Serving Multi-Cultural & Diverse Populations

To better serve and address racial inequity within our Dallas communities, the domestic violence unit will work with division commanders in minority communities to create presentations at crime watch events as well as provide social media awareness on domestic topics and provide information on available services. We will begin online implementation in December and transition to in person as opportunities allow. Due to the large percentage of domestic violence offenses in minority communities, we will work with PIO and NPO units to promote social media awareness in English and Spanish.

Hiring a Caseworker

To assist with victim outreach and community education, funding has been approved for the hiring of a caseworker who will also be tasked with providing victims with transportation to shelter when there are no other means available. The caseworker's additional duties will include counseling of victims, domestic violence liaison with

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governmental and non-governmental agencies, maintaining analytical statistics. This additional resource should be in place by January 2021.

Decrease the Risk of Injury and Death to Victims

There are two recommendations that we will implement in an effort to help decrease the risk of severe injury or death to domestic violence victims. First, the caseworker will work with the High-Risk Team to follow up on tier 2 cases and connect victims to services to prevent the escalation of violence. Anticipated implementation is within a month of the hiring of the caseworker. Next, we will have patrol officers provide a copy of the Lethality Assessment Profile (LAP) to the magistrate upon the arrest of suspects. The LAP will assist the magistrate in setting a higher bond for violent offenders. We are currently drafting roll call training bulletin for circulation.

While this is not an exhaustive list of Dallas PD's implementation efforts, we feel confident that with the collaboration of the Domestic Violence Taskforce all recommendations will be implemented within the next four months. Beyond that, we will continue to work towards prevention and education, both internal and externally, to create a greater awareness, and improve outcomes for victims of domestic violence in our community.

Should you have any additional questions or need additional information, please let me know.



Renee Hall
Chief of Police

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
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