

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

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**Raising Awareness on Domestic Violence Prevention**

The holiday season can be a time of happiness and greater connectedness with loved ones, however, it can also be a difficult and dangerous time for many. According to media reports, such was the case of the teenager in Azusa who lost her life at the hands of her ex-boyfriend days before Christmas. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case. The National Domestic Violence Hotline indicated that interventions by law enforcement due to domestic or intimate partner violence increase by up to 20 percent in December compared to other months. Experts attribute this to increased financial and familial stressors, as well as an increased consumption of alcohol, among other factors during the holidays that can contribute to increased intimate partner violence. Although the holidays can lead to a rise in such cases, intimate partner violence remains a critical issue year-round.

According to the 2023 Report on the Status of Women in Los Angeles County, in 2020, Los Angeles County accounted for 22% of all domestic violence calls across the

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State. Further, the total number of calls for domestic violence assistance rose in 2021 across the State, with nearly 165,000 calls to law enforcement agencies, of which 47% involved a weapon, including personal weapons, such as feet and hands.

The 2023 Los Angeles County Health Survey indicated that domestic violence impacts women from across all races/ethnicities and income levels. Throughout Los Angeles County, approximately 1 in 4 women report having endured sexual or physical violence from an intimate partner. Unfortunately, this number is likely higher as many individuals choose not to report for a variety of reasons, such as fear of retaliation, or believing they will not receive adequate help, among others.

Although domestic violence disproportionately impacts women, it also impacts men. In the County, an estimated 5.7% of males report experiencing physical domestic violence, while 1.6% report sexual domestic violence. Meanwhile, in 2021, 23% of women and 10% of men indicated having experienced sexual or physical violence from an intimate partner during their adult lives. Further, across the United States, an estimated 61% of bisexual women, 44% of lesbians, 37% of bisexual men, 26% of gay men, and 31% of transgender individuals experienced intimate partner violence.

The County's Department of Public Health has prioritized addressing issues related to domestic or intimate partner violence and gender-based violence through the Office of Violence Prevention, the Domestic Violence Council, and the Office of Women's Health, which provides a survivor-centered, coordinated approach to addressing intimate partner violence. The County also has a dedicated 24/7 domestic violence hotline to connect individuals in need of support to an operator or agency near them. Additionally, the Office of Violence Prevention is working with County

departments to conduct a gap analysis to better inform the County's response to gender-based violence, which can also help support the prevention and response of domestic and intimate partner violence.

However, the negative impacts of domestic violence have far-reaching consequences that extend beyond the individuals experiencing abuse to families, loved ones and entire communities. The County must continue to identify opportunities to raise awareness and provide additional supports to individuals experiencing domestic and intimate partner violence, loved ones of those experiencing abuse, and provide services for abusers, to continue to prevent and address instances of violence.

**!WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention in collaboration with the Domestic Violence Council, the Office of Women's Health, the Department of Mental Health, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), and other relevant departments to report back in writing in 120 days with the following:

1. The creation of a toolkit including social media messaging and graphics in multiple languages, that is inclusive of different gender identities and sexual orientations, to raise awareness on how to break the cycle of domestic and intimate partner violence for individuals experiencing abuse, families, loved ones, and abusers that can be shared and disseminated by County partners, including County departments, LACOE, community-based organizations, health providers, schools, and other trusted entities that share public service announcements. The toolkit should include messaging and information, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Recognizing signs of abuse;
  - b. Existing resources to support survivors and abusers to prevent domestic or intimate partner violence;
  - c. Raising awareness on the prevalence of domestic and intimate partner violence and its consequences; and
  - d. Raising awareness of healthy familial and romantic relationship dynamics.
2. Plans and resources needed to facilitate a public outreach campaign, in multiple languages, that is culturally responsive and inclusive of different gender identities and sexual orientations, and utilizes traditional, ethnic, hyperlocal, and social media to raise awareness on intimate or domestic violence, prevention, and existing County resources.

**!WE, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors request that the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) report back in writing in 120 days with a feasibility study on options to better partner and develop a coordinated response to the needs of people experiencing domestic or intimate partner violence, their families, and abusers.

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