

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE COUNCIL**

DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE

FINAL REPORT

JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2007

SPEAK UP - SAVE LIVES

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE ROSTER
SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
January 1, 2007-December 31, 2007
ROLANDA PIERRE DIXON ESQ., CHAIR
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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San Jose State Univ-Counseling Service

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Sunnyvale Dept. of Public Safety

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Asian Pacific Comm. Against Domestic Violence

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Palo Alto Police Dept.

Chata Alfaro
Exec. Director, Support Network for Battered Wmn.

Janeen Carlo
Dep. Director Family Court Services

Det. LaMond Davis
Sheriff's Office-DV

Margaret Petros
Victim Witness

Tomomi Inoue
Asian Americans for Community Involvement

Sgt. Dan Rodriguez
Sheriff's Office

Emma Lucas
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Lt. M. Gamez Jr.
San José Police Dept.-Homicide

Sgt. Russell Bence
SJPD Family Violence Center

Det. Janet Shannon
SCC Sheriff's Office-DV

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Caroline Jimenez
District Attorney's Office

Dr. Joseph O'Hara
SCC Coroner's Office

FINAL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2007 – DECEMBER 31, 2007

DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE

By: Rolanda Pierre Dixon Esq. - Chair

The Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Death Review Committee, hereinafter referred to as the **DVDRC**, was created in October of 1994. It was initiated by a request of the United States Department of Justice to our Domestic Violence Council. The Domestic Violence Council agreed to create a committee whose main focus would be the examination of all domestic violence related deaths in the county. This case by case examination would hopefully determine how and why deaths occurred and thoroughly examine any contacts the individual had with any part of the system prior to the death. If this examination led to information that revealed gaps in the system, those gaps would be addressed and hopefully future lives would be saved.

The Domestic Violence Council configured the committee and charged it with not only the examination of each case but also with making appropriate recommendations for needed changes in the system based on the findings. The Domestic Violence Council would then advise the Board of Supervisors about those recommendations and the Board would work to implement them.

In creating the **DVDRC**, we brought to the table a cross section of all the organizations in Santa Clara County that dealt with domestic violence victims, perpetrators, and their children. Representatives from the District Attorney's office, Department of Corrections, law enforcement, Coroner's Office, Pretrial Services, Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation, battered women's advocacy agencies,* therapists, Adult Protective Services, Social Services, DFCS, San Jose's Family/Domestic Violence Advisory Board, Asian Pacific Communities Against Domestic Violence, Victim Witness, batterer's intervention programs, Family Court Services, Public Health, the GLBT community and the family law bar were all invited and all agreed to participate.

We were very fortunate in this county to get the cooperation of all the relevant organizations. We were also very comfortable working together because nearly all the involved organizations were already a part of the county's on-going Domestic Violence Council. Trust among the participants and good working relationships had already been established. We all agreed that discovered information would not be used to "finger point" but to do the constructive work of advocating for system-wide change.

Every member of the **DVDRC** signed a confidentiality agreement (attachment A). This agreement requires that all information discussed in committee meetings remain confidential. The signed agreement is kept on file by the committee chair. The only agreed upon public disclosure of cases involves statistics and fact patterns. The names of particular victims and perpetrators are not revealed out of respect for victims, survivors, and their families.

*battered women's advocacy agencies include Maitri, AACI, The Support Network, Community Solutions and Next Door

In 1995 the California Legislature enacted Penal Code section 11163.3, which allowed all California counties to establish interagency domestic violence death review teams. The

legislature understood that these teams (Santa Clara County's being one of the first) had been used successfully to ensure that incidents of domestic violence and abuse were recognized and developed recommendations for policies and protocols for community prevention and intervention initiatives.

In 1996 the California legislature expanded Penal Code section 11163.3 (et. seq.) which allowed for the formation of domestic violence death review teams in all California counties. It also deemed all information shared in death review committee meetings as confidential and not subject to disclosure or discovery by a third party. Notwithstanding the foregoing, recommendations of a domestic violence death review team may be disclosed at the discretion of a majority of the members of the team.

Before the work of the **DVDRC** could begin, we had several discussions on the definition of the term "domestic violence related death." The committee's consensus was as follows: a "domestic violence related death" is a death where the perpetrator and victim were involved in an intimate relationship, either at the time of death or prior to the death and the conduct of the perpetrator led to the death of the victim, victims or perpetrator. This includes all individuals in (or formally in) intimate partner relationships, whether or not they were married or living together at the time. We look at homicides, homicide/suicides, suicides, blue suicides,** and fatal accident cases. If other family and or community members were also killed by the perpetrator those cases are also reviewed.

****Blue suicides are those situations where an individual threatens to kill police officers and/or others and comes toward the police with a deadly weapon- intending that they respond by shooting him or her.**

The **DVDRC** produces a final report at the end of each calendar year. This year's report will cover four (4) identified domestic violence related deaths for 2007. In 2006 there were six (6) identified cases (see attachment 3 for yearly death statistics). The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office filed 36 criminal complaints on homicide cases in 2007. Of the four (4) domestic violence related deaths in 2007, three of them were homicides and one was a suicide.

The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office issued 3,162 criminal domestic violence complaints in 2007 (2680 misdemeanors and 482 felonies). Our domestic violence criminal courts issued protective orders on every criminal case. All of the police agencies in Santa Clara County (including those on university and college campuses) adhere to the Domestic Violence law enforcement protocol, which recognizes domestic violence as a crime and contains a "pro arrest policy." A "pro arrest policy" means where probable cause exists to believe the perpetrator committed an act of domestic violence an arrest shall be effectuated by the responding law enforcement officer. The protocol is reviewed and updated yearly.

Women's shelters, domestic violence organizations, batterer treatment groups, and other professionals also deal with domestic violence on a daily basis in this county. They explain the criminal justice system and provide needed assistance for victims, their children, and perpetrators. They also offer counseling in an effort to help families build lives without violence. These agencies see more victims than even law enforcement does because not all victims call the police when they are being abused.

It is our belief that Santa Clara County's policies and procedures around domestic violence helped decrease the number of domestic violence related deaths. Although there were four (4) such deaths in 2007, we did not lose a single victim in the five thousand two hundred and six (5206) cases referred to the District Attorney's office for prosecution. We believe this clearly shows that the policies of this county and the educational efforts around domestic violence have helped decrease the number of fatal incidents. We must stress that these efforts must continue in full force because if we let up we feel our numbers will increase.

Tragically, we did lose a child this year in a domestic violence related incident. We also lost one child in 2006. The committee continues to stress to the public that when deadly domestic violence occurs, no one is safe, even the most vulnerable ones in our homes; our children. We also noted that six (6) children were left this year without one or both parents because of these deadly acts and or the perpetrators resulting incarceration or death. These children's lives will be forever changed. There were also four young adults left without one of their parents as a result of domestic violence this year.

Domestic violence related death did not take the life of a single elder member of our community this year. This is the third time this has happened since the inception of the committee in 1994. We believe this is due to our continued collaborative work with Adult Protective Services. In 2004 we brought together agencies that deal with elders and began discussing problematic domestic violence cases where the victims and perpetrators were still alive. We were able to come up with workable solutions that held elder batterers accountable and protected elder victims. It seems to be working because for three years in a row we have not had a senior listed among the dead. We also found that there is still a resistance to understanding and accepting that elders can be involved in domestic violence cases.

There is more good news in this year's report. We did not have a single female perpetrator this year. We did not lose anyone from our same sex community and no one from the African American, Caucasian or immigrant communities.*** We lost one member of our Asian community. The individual committed suicide in 2007 after perpetrating a homicide in 2006. This continues a trend set last year of a reduction in deaths for the Asian community. For a number of years this community represented over one half of the domestic violence related deaths in Santa Clara County. The numbers started coming down in 2004 and continued to drop and it is important to recognize that these efforts are making a significant difference. Therefore, it is essential that they not be decreased if we are to continue this trend. We were also pleased that there were no victims in these numbers who had a restraining order and we did not have any blue suicides. Our hard work seems to be paying off.

The **DVDRC's** investigation into these cases clearly shows that nearly everyone around these victims was aware of serious problems in the relationship but did not intervene prior to the deaths. Domestic violence does not get better on its own. Everyone including professionals and communities at large must commit to ending it.

When anyone suspects that domestic violence is being perpetrated against a victim, they must act. **Calling 911** or seeking professional assistance could save a life. Domestic violence happens everywhere in our community. No one is safe. When a life is lost many people beyond the victim's immediate family are adversely affected. As an example, when school age children die, all the children, parents and teachers in that school suffer and never forget the tragedy. We must increase our vigilance in order to protect the lives of children, adults, and seniors in our community. The collaborative work within the domestic violence prevention community is what we believe has led to the reduction in deaths.

“Speak up – Save lives” – was the message chosen by the **DVDRC** in 2002. We decided in 2003 to retain the message and in 2003 it was also adopted by the City of San José Family/Domestic Violence Advisory Board and was used in a public campaign. The committee has decided to permanently retain this message. It is still very important and it clearly states what we must all do in our fight to end domestic violence.

It is **everyone's** responsibility to pay attention to what's happening in their community and speak out (e.g. call 911, call domestic violence hotlines) in order to stop the violence and protect victims. We could not have said it any clearer.

SPEAK UP – SAVE LIVES

***The **DVDRC** defines immigrant as a person who has been in the United States for 10 years or less-it does not look at legal status.

The reviewed cases breakdown as follows:

I. TYPES OF DEATH

1. 4 deaths from 2007 (3 homicides, 1 suicide)

II. POLICE AGENCIES INVOLVED

1. 2 deaths from San José Police Department (2 homicides)
2. 1 death from Santa Clara Police Department (1 homicide)
3. 1 death from the Department of Corrections (1 suicide)

**III. AGE/RACE/SEX/SUBSTANCE ABUSE/CHILDREN
PRESENT**

1. **Ages** For all victims and perpetrators - 7 yrs to 46 years of age

- A. Homicide adult female - 40 years of age
B. Homicide adult male - 46 years of age
C. Suicide adult male- 32 years of age
D. Homicide child - 7 years of age

2. **Race/Ethnicity**

- Hispanic: 3 (3 homicides)
- Asian: 1 (1 suicide)
- Caucasian: 0
- African American: 0
- Bi-Cultural: 0

3. **Sex**

- Female: 1 (1 homicide)
- Male: 3 (2 homicides, 1 suicide)

4. **Substance Abuse At Time of Incident**

0 Drugs
0 Alcohol

5. **Number of Children – Homicide Victims**
1 (age 6)
6. **Children Present At Time of Incident**
4 (2 homicides)
7. **Number of children left w/o one or both parents (due to death or resulting incarceration)**
6 (2 homicides, 1 suicide) ages 2-9
8. **Perpetrator’s Gender**
4 male (3 homicides, 1 suicide)
9. **Manner of Death**

1 knife	(1 homicide)
1 bludgeoning	(1 homicide)
1 strangulation	(1 homicide)
1 suffocation	(1 suicide)
10. **Separated/Divorced or discussing either at time of death**
2 (1 homicide, 1 suicide)
11. **Prior domestic violence contact (police reports)**
1 (homicide)
12. **Restraining orders/Do not annoy, harass or strike orders**
0
13. **Location of Deaths**

3 at home	(3 homicides)
1 in the county jail	(1 suicide)
0 at a business	
14. **Same Gender/Transgender Couples**
0
15. **Occupations of those who died**

Homemaker	
Student	
Retiree	
16. **Occupations of those who committed homicide**

Day worker	
Unemployed	
17. **Type of relationship at time of death**

1 marital	(1 homicide)
2 cohabitant	(2 homicides)
1 dating relationship	(1 suicide)

18. **Length of relationship**

1 case – 5 months	(1 homicide)
1 case – 1 year	(1 homicide)
1 case– 3 years	(1 suicide)
1 case – 5 years	(1 homicide)

19. **Educational level of perpetrators**

3 – High School	(3 homicides)
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20. **Educational level of victims**

3 – High School
1 – Elementary school

21. **Met and began dating as teens**

0

22. **Immigrant victims (less than 10 years in the United States)*****

0

***The DVDRC defines Immigrant as a person who has been in the United States for 10 years or less-it does not look at legal status.

IV. CASE SUMMARIES

CASE 192: Suicide – The defendant and victim started a dating relationship. The perpetrator thought that the victim was going to be in a long term relationship with him. They have one child together. He gets upset when she states she plans to end the relationship. He kills their two year old child. He is then arrested and while awaiting trial, kills himself. He is 32 years old.

CASE 193: Homicide – The defendant and victim meet and begin an intimate relationship. They eventually marry and move in together. The defendant is very abusive. The victim makes a discovery about the defendant's prior conduct and tells him she plans to inform law enforcement about it. The def kills her and then sets their home on fire. The victim's daughter manages to escape. The victim was 40 years old.

CASE 194: Homicide – The victim's mother is involved in an intimate relationship with the perpetrator. The relationship is volatile. The victim is beaten by the perpetrator during an argument and is killed, he was 6 years old.

CASE 195: Homicide – The defendant gets into a violent argument with his live-in girlfriend. Her family intervenes, including the victim. The victim ends up stabbed and killed by the defendant, he was 46 years old.

TASKS ACCOMPLISHED

The Santa Clara County Death Review Committee (**DVDRC**) is a standing committee of the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council. The committee has been in existence since 1994. It is one of the oldest domestic violence death review committees in the nation. We have been asked on numerous occasions to present at various conferences and workshops all over the country. In the last year we made over twenty such presentations. We have a standing agenda item which requests reports from those team members who have presented on death review in the preceding month.

Committee members also made themselves available this year for a large number of presentations in the county on the issue of death review. These presentations were made to professional and lay groups. The committee is committed to informing the general public about domestic violence and its deadly consequences.

The committee also worked closely with the San José City Family/Domestic Violence Advisory Board, The Court Systems Committee, Police Victim Relations Committee, and The Executive Committee of the Domestic Violence Council.

In 2007 we did not lose one member of our elder community. We did a lot of work again this year on the education of seniors around the issue of domestic violence. The committee members from Adult Protective Services, Pretrial Services, Palo Alto Police Department, San José Police Department and the District Attorney's office also worked closely together on senior domestic violence issues after they were initially reported to the police. Domestic violence in the senior community is taken very seriously and as a result we are convinced that this helped save lives this year. We began this work in 2005 and have increased our collaborative work each year.

We have additional good news to impart this year. We did not lose one single person to homicide who had a restraining order or who had an on-going domestic violence case with law enforcement. We are convinced that law enforcement is doing a great job in terms of its response to domestic violence situations and the resulting prosecution of these cases saves lives. We didn't lose any members of our same sex; African American, Caucasian or immigrant communities. We did not have a single "blue suicide" or a single death caused by a firearm. We give credit to our Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol which is followed by all police agencies in Santa Clara County including our university and college police.

We did not lose a single person who met and began dating their partner as a teenager and none of the deaths in 2007 occurred at local businesses. We believe the hard work that has gone into workplace violence education by the committee and the Domestic Violence Council has helped bring this number to zero.

We will continue to track and study domestic violence related death cases and we are convinced that this collaborative work saves members of our community from early and tragic death.

V. CONCLUSION

In concluding this year's report it is again glaringly obvious that family members, co-workers, and neighbors are well aware of serious problems in these relationships before the deaths occur and yet did not always know where to go or what to do to help. It is the hope of this committee that everyone will start to take notice of what is going on in these relationships and report abuse and inform victims about options. The community must educate itself on domestic violence in all its forms and realize it can turn deadly. Concerned community members must also know where to call for help and what they can do to assist victims (see page 18).

Domestic violence homicides at their core are about one individual's desire to have absolute power and control over their significant other. When they begin to feel that power eroding, they will do whatever they have to in order to regain it; including killing the very person/persons they seek to control. Children, other family members, neighbors, co-workers, and innocent bystanders are all put at risk if they are near when the violence erupts. We must continue to work to educate the public on these issues and help people to understand that reporting domestic violence **is helping not hurting** and intervention is necessary.

We must also note that this year we had the lowest number of domestic violence related deaths since we started compiling the numbers in 1994. We feel this is due to several reasons:

- 1) Reporting of non-lethal domestic violence incidents by the community;
- 2) Confiscation of guns at domestic violence incidents by well-trained law enforcement officers;
- 3) Arrest and thorough follow-up by well-trained law enforcement officers;
- 4) Prosecution by the District Attorney's office;
- 5) Advocacy support for victims and their children by agencies and programs;
- 6) Appropriate sentences for perpetrators by Judges and court orders which the Probation Department makes sure are followed;
- 7) Counseling for victims, children, and perpetrators;
- 8) Community educational campaigns on domestic violence;
- 9) In custody and community intervention programs;
- 10) Availability of restraining orders and emergency protective orders and assistance in obtaining these orders;
- 11) Increased community awareness;
- 12) Collaborations of the county and community based organizations working together on domestic violence issues;
- 13) Collaborations between county agencies, for example Adult Protective Services, Pretrial Services, Family Court Services, Probation, DFCS and the District Attorney's Office.
- 14) Corporations having workplace violence policies, which include early detection, intervention and protection of victims.
- 15) Victim witness assistance

We also know that all the members of the agencies represented on the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee take what we learn in every case and apply it to their everyday work. We also spread the word to our co-workers, so everyone begins to understand the issue.

We did lose one child this year to domestic violence related death. We just can't stress enough how domestic violence is a danger to every member of the family including the most vulnerable, the children. We must take the initiative and speak out for them. We have a duty to protect them and **speaking out about** domestic violence is the first way to begin.

Along with the "red flags" and recommendations which follow this report we have included a page on common factors we saw among batterers who kill. It is our hope that those who read this will take these messages to heart and help victims by reporting domestic violence and/or getting victims to professional assistance.

This committee also began the very hard work of looking at "victimology." It will be a thorough study and analysis of victims and their characteristics. It is hoped that studying the victim's background and current life circumstances could provide answers to the offender's characteristics. It is also hoped that such a study would lead to an enhanced ability to better determine the risk of a particular person becoming the victim of deadly domestic violence. This is very hard and arduous work but the committee is committing to continuing that work.

The Domestic Violence Death Review Committee hopes that the release of this report will help people begin to recognize domestic violence and intervene before death is the result.

SPEAK UP – SAVE LIVES

Respectfully Submitted: The Domestic Violence Death Review Committee 2007

VI. 2007 SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS (RED FLAGS)

- 1. Everyone close to the victim and perpetrator knew that something was very wrong in the relationship but did not intervene.**
 - They must ask victims if they are fearful of the perpetrator and why?
 - They should always ask if there are deadly weapons in the home.
 - They must seek to safely intervene (assist the victim in calling a woman's shelter or seeking domestic violence information, call law enforcement, and encourage victims to call law enforcement to remove firearms) in these relationships.
 - They must educate themselves on domestic violence and share that information with everyone they come in contact with, especially family members.

- 2. Deadly domestic violence has several characteristics, which were evident in many of the four cases we reviewed this year.**
 - Prior threats of homicide and/or suicide – 3 cases
 - Victim talked about divorce or separation and the perpetrator could not handle it – 2 cases
 - Kidnapping or prior false imprisonment – 2 cases

- 3. Deaths occurred in different jurisdiction in this county and have involved different racial and socioeconomic groups. In fact, those individuals from the middle/upper middle and higher economic strata contributed to one-half of the deaths (2). We must be cognizant of the fact that domestic violence is not just a poor person's problem, it is everyone's problem. Domestic violence death also does not care how rich or poor you are, everyone is at risk.**

- 4. Children are the most vulnerable in our society. We must act on their behalf. If they express real fear of a parent, we must act. If we see that their living conditions can be dangerous to them, we must act. When children appear vulnerable and in danger of abuse or neglect everyone should report to the Child Abuse Hotline at DFCS.**

- 5. Untreated and inadequately treated mental health issues underlie many of the cases we reviewed last year. Federal, state, and local governments must put mental health dollars back into budgets. Our families are suffering from a lack of adequate mental health treatment.**

VII. Characteristics of Batterers who Kill

(This list contains facts we deduced from the deaths we studied. They may not apply in every situation.)

- 1. Loners – do not have any friends of their own. If they have a friend, it is often someone from their childhood who hasn't stayed close to them.**
- 2. They will “co-op” the victim’s friends in an attempt to learn more about the victim.**
- 3. They are overly possessive, controlling and jealous. They will try to get all the victim’s friends, family members and co-workers away from the victim.**
- 4. They control all the finances, even if they don't work.**
- 5. They are often underemployed or recently unemployed.**
- 6. They often have attachment issues, having lost a parent at an early age.**
- 7. Close to the time of death, they will begin to unravel – inability to sleep, talking about dying, threatening suicide or homicide, extremely upset about life.**
- 8. They will engage in stalking conduct if the victim tries to leave them.**
- 9. Batterers do not mellow with age. Getting older can ever be more dangerous, especially if the victim is in good health and the batterer is not.**
- 10. Become distraught at the discussion of separation.**
- 11. Have prior unsuccessful intimate relationships.**
- 12. Early life problems (learning disabilities, emotional problems, juvenile delinquency)**

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

We, the members of the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Death Review Committee, hereby recommend to the Domestic Violence Council and the community at large the following:

- 1. The Domestic Violence Council encourages the community at large to stand up and report domestic violence when it is observed.**
- 2. The Domestic Violence Council continues its efforts to educate the public on domestic violence issues, including the release of this report to the public.**
- 3. The Domestic Violence Council increases its efforts to educate our ethnic minorities and immigrant communities on domestic violence.**
- 4. The Domestic Violence Council continues to ensure that all domestic violence-related educational information teach that domestic violence occurs in the elder, disabled, immigrant, gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender communities.**
- 5. The Domestic Violence Council continues to encourage local school districts to develop a curriculum that addresses the issues of domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. It should also help children feel safe in reporting domestic violence by educating teachers and counselors and setting aside a confidential place for children to make the report. Schools should also track very carefully the attendance rate of children.**
- 6. The Domestic Violence Council continues to encourage victims of domestic violence to get restraining orders.**
- 7. The Domestic Violence Council continues to promote the education of all workplaces on domestic violence, so those potential victims can be protected.**
- 8. The Domestic Violence Council promotes legislation, which requires all mental health professionals to have domestic violence education.**
- 9. The Domestic Violence Council promotes the spending of mental health dollars on those committing domestic violence that are also suicidal, and requiring mental health professionals to get training on the identification of domestic violence and how to treat it.**
- 10. Mental health professionals should “red flag” cases where there are a number of referrals and should develop protocols to deal effectively with this population.**
- 11. The Domestic Violence Council continues to encourage the utilization of available monies for mental health and legal services for children exposed to domestic violence.**
- 12. The Domestic Violence Council continues to encourage parents to get parenting classes, which discuss the impact of domestic violence on children.**

13. **The Domestic Violence Council continues to inform the public that law enforcement at a domestic violence incident (Penal Code section 12028.5) can remove all guns and keep them for up to 5 days if charges are not filed. The person seeking to get those firearms back must demonstrate compliance with Penal Code section 12021.3 (he/she is deemed eligible to possess a firearm). If charges are filed and the perpetrator is convicted he/she cannot possess a firearm for up to 10 years (Penal Code section 12021). Also if the victim obtains a restraining order (whether or not the perpetrator is filed on or convicted), the restrained person cannot possess a firearm.**
14. **The Domestic Violence Council continues to promote counseling for children living in domestic violence homes.**

The DVDRC recognizes that we have the lowest number of domestic violence related deaths ever since reporting began in 1994. In 2007 we lost 4 individuals to domestic violence related death. We are convinced this is a clear indication that we must continue to do everything listed above.

SPEAK UP – SAVE LIVES

Penal Code Section 11163.3 (partial)**-Domestic Violence Death Review Team-Protocol: Composition of Team: Disclosure of Findings-Content and Protocol**

- (a) A county may establish an interagency domestic violence death review team to assist local agencies in identifying and reviewing domestic violence death, including homicides and suicides, and facilitating communication among the various agencies involved in domestic violence cases. Interagency domestic violence death review teams have been used successfully to ensure that incidents of domestic violence and abuse are recognized and that agency involvement is reviewed to develop recommendations for policies and protocols for community prevention and intervention initiatives to reduce and eradicate the incidence of domestic violence.
- (b) For purposes of this section, “abuse” has the meaning set forth in Section 6203 of the Family Code and “domestic violence” has the meaning set forth in Section 6211 of the Family Code.
- (c) A county may develop a protocol that may be used as a guideline to assist coroners and other person who perform autopsies on domestic violence victims in the identification of domestic violence, in the determination of whether domestic violence contributed to death or whether domestic violence has occurred prior to death, but was not the actual cause of death, and in the proper written reporting procedures for domestic violence, including the designation of the cause and mode of death.
- (d) County domestic violence death review teams shall be comprised of, but not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Experts in the field of forensic pathology
 - 2. Medical personnel with expertise in domestic violence abuse
 - 3. Coroners and medical examiners
 - 4. Criminologists
 - 5. District Attorneys and city attorneys
 - 6. Domestic violence shelter service staff and battered women’s advocates
 - 7. Law enforcement personnel
 - 8. Representative of local agencies that are involved with domestic violence abuse reporting
 - 9. County health department staff who deal with domestic violence health issues
 - 10. representative of local child abuse agencies
 - 11. Local professional associations of persons describe in paragraphs (1) to (10) inclusive.

****See Penal Code 11116.3 for the full legal text

IX. CRISIS HOTLINES

EMERGENCY POLICE RESPONSE – 911

Asian Women’s Home	(408) 975-2739
Support Network for Battered Women	(408) 541-6100
Spanish	1-800-572-2782
TDD	(650) 490-7857
Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence	(408) 279-2962
Community Solutions (South County)	(408) 683-4118
YWCA Rape Crisis Center	(408) 287-3000
South County Rape Crisis Center	(408) 779-2115
Adult Protective Services	1-800-414-2002
Family Court	(408)534-5600
Suicide Crisis Service	(408) 279-3312
	(650) 494-8420 (North County)
	(408) 683-2482 (South County)
Victim Witness Assistance	(408) 295-2656 (8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
CONTACT (Hotline for all hotlines)	(408) 850-6125
National Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-7233 (SAFE)
Victim Notification System	1-800-464-3568 (jail program- Victims can register and be informed when defendant is to be released)
Charter Legal Services for Children and Youth	(408) 522-3800
San Jose State Counseling Services (SJSU students) ...	(408)924-9510
Family Court Self Help Center	(408) 882-2900
Restraining Order Self Help Center	(408) 534-5709
Attachment 1: Copy of the DVDRC’s Confidentiality Agreement	

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE

I, as a member of the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee **agree to keep confidential all** information discussed at the death review meetings. I also **agree to return all** outside case information received in the meeting involving decedents to the Chairperson of the Death Review Committee upon my resignation from the Committee.

Dated

Printed Name

Signature

2000 – 18 domestic violence related deaths

2001 – 17 domestic violence related deaths

2002 – 18 domestic violence related deaths

2003 – 21 domestic violence related deaths

2004 – 6 domestic violence related deaths

2005 – 10 domestic violence related deaths

2006 – 6 domestic violence related deaths

2007 – 4 domestic violence related deaths