SUBJECT: Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner (DV/IP) in the LGBTQ+ Community in West Hollywood

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT
The Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board will review a set of recommendations from its Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence (DV/IPV) Subcommittee, which has been working with representatives from the Transgender Advisory Board and the Women’s Advisory Board on ways to enhance the City’s efforts to increase awareness about existing resources for victims of DV/IPV in West Hollywood.

RECOMMENDATIONS
1) Review updated May 25, 2021, motion from LGAB’s DV/IPV Subcommittee, which includes recommendations for enhancements of existing City’s efforts to increase awareness about existing resources for victims of DV/IPV in West Hollywood.
2) Approve presentation of these recommendations to the City Council for its consideration.

BACKGROUND ANALYSIS
The City of West Hollywood funds several social services and assistance programs to support the needs of residents. These programs are funded as part of the City’s core values and commitment to supporting residents through social services. The funding for this program comes from the General Fund, which are unrestricted funds. In general, municipalities in Los Angeles County do not fund social services programs at the level West Hollywood has done since its incorporation in 1984. The provision of social, mental and health services are generally performed by the County of Los Angeles. As part of this commitment to providing support to residents, the City funds a DV/Intimate Partner support program operated by The Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center (The Center) to provide support services to residents experiencing domestic violence at home.

In terms of raising awareness about domestic violence, each October, which is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the City engages in an awareness campaign to promote the availability of local resources. The City’s Communications Department leads this effort by way of media relations and digital media consistent with Council direction and the Department’s work plans.

On March 16, 2020, the City Council approved a motion by the Mayor John D’Amico and Councilmember Lauren Meister to further enhance the City’s efforts on raising awareness about DV in West Hollywood. Most of the recommendations included in the motion have
been developed and implemented; however, as the pandemic’s impact became quite severe, City’s staff shifted its focus to assisting residents and business cope with the financial and other impacts due to the restrictions on activity imposed by the Governor and public health officials.

In February 2021, LGAB voted to form a Subcommittee on DV/IP. The Subcommittee has met and has reviewed the City’s existing efforts and is in the process of considering whether to make additional recommendations to the City Council on ways to further enhance the City’s efforts on the subject. Attachment A: “DV Subcommittee Recommended Actions for LGAB’s Consideration” is hereby attached for the Board’s consideration.

In the meantime, the City’s staff liaison to LGAB and TAB has, in collaboration with other divisions’ personnel, has reached out to other governmental agencies that have developed campaigns on DV to gather information on what has been developed and possibly available to use, locally.

CURRENT STATUS:
On May 5, 2021, TAB appointed three (3) Board Members to join in LGAB’s Subcommittee, which is working collaboratively with the Women’s Advisory Board’s (WAB) Women’s Safety Committee and LGAB’s DV/IPV Subcommittee. On May 25, 2021, the Joint (WAB/TAB/LGAB) DV/IPV Subcommittee met, and the members agreed upon a few recommendations. The recommendations are hereby presented as Attachment A: **DV/IPV Subcommittee Recommended Actions for LGAB’s Consideration 5/25/2021**. On May 27, 2021, at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Women’s Advisory Board (WAB), the Board voted to approve the recommendations and to submit them to the City Council for its consideration. TAB, which its regular meeting scheduled for June 2, 2021, was cancelled will meet again on July 7, 2021.

ATTACHMENT(S): Yes
Attachment A: DV/IPV Subcommittee Recommended Actions for LGAB’s Consideration 5/25/2021
“LGBTQ members fall victim to domestic violence at equal or even higher rates compared to their heterosexual counterparts.” – National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) https://ncadv.org/blog/posts/domestic-violence-and-the-lgbtq-community

Definitions:
1. SOGIE is defined as Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression and will be used as a collective term for this recommendation.
2. Domestic Violence (DV) is defined as violent or aggressive behavior, within the home, typically involving the violent abuse of a spouse or partner.
3. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is defined as including physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse.

MOTION: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS ACTION AND EDUCATION:

Some of our suggestions are in alignment with motions that have already been passed by Council; however, are presented here to ensure implementation and execution of previously passed council motions on this matter.

In an effort to increase visibility for DV/IPV awareness and safety, and for DV/IPV awareness to secure a permanent and annual acknowledgment on the City's calendar LGAB/TAB/WAB would like to make the following recommendations to COUNCIL:

1) Annual: On October 1, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Adopt a Resolution denouncing domestic violence and intimate partner violence with a focus on LGBTQ people.
2) Annual: On October 1, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Proclaim October as National Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence Awareness Month.

3) Throughout the month of October:
   i) Display Purple Lighted Lanterns on the Blvd. (Purple is the color of DV/IPV Awareness.
   ii) Display Signage throughout the City that appropriately represents SOGIE relationships.

4) Annual: Release a timely press release for October’s National Domestic Violence / Intimate Partner Awareness Month to include:
   iii) The City’s Resolutions (#1 and #2)
   iv) The lighted purple lanterns (#3)
   v) Appropriate signage
   vi) References to SOGIE, intimate partner violence and domestic violence awareness.
   vii) Information to resources that include legal help.

NOTE: LA LGBT CENTER LEGAL SERVICES: PENDING APPROVAL

3) Create/Design a graphic or artwork that is inclusive and representative of LGBTQ/SOGIE relationships.
   Graphics to include: Text Number, QR Code, additional languages.

NOTE: Use of the term “intimate partner violence” moved us away from the old view that abusive violence only occurs in marital relationships where the husband was the abuser and the wife was the victim. The concept of intimate partner violence acknowledges that abuse can exist in any type of personal intimate relationship, regardless of sexual orientation, marital status, or gender. Like “domestic violence,” this new term does not assign the roles of the abuser and victim to one gender or the other.”
The new artwork will be used for:

i. Online social media awareness.

ii. Printed signage which can include street banners, lawn signs for street medians, window decals, drink coasters, small posters to be displayed at **business locations with permission:**

**IMPORTANT TO DISPLAY AT EYELINE --**

**in bars/restaurants/coffee shops, bathroom stalls and over urinals.**

Additional locations: Bus Shelters, Library, City Hall, Billboard (pursue donation space and/or partner with Organization to share message and cost)

iii. The current “Not Safer at Home” graphic is not relatable to our communities and the message is outdated anyway as the City begins reopening post COVID.
Iv. **GRAPHIC EXAMPLES CREATED.** Experience of Shoving, Slapping, Name Calling and Controlling are the words we hear most - many not realizing these actions are IPV.
4) Create a PSA to broadcast on social media and city’s media outlets: with a direct message to LGBTQ/SOGIE victims.
   a) Potential use of celebrities, drag ambassadors, local leaders to help promote the messaging.
   b) List of available resources in West Hollywood for victims and survivors.
   c) Graphics and infographics of where victims can go in/near West Hollywood for immediate safety;
      POSSIBLE: SANTA MONICA RAPE TREATMENT CENTER
      PENDING APPROVAL
      IMPORTANT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH ORGANIZATIONS WE REFER AND CONFIRM THEIR RESOURCES.
d) EXAMPLES OF WEST HOLLYWOOD AVAILABLE MEDIA: Using Video and Moving Graphics

i) Following the successful launch of "OUT Zones", we're thrilled to announce our latest outdoor expansion program: OUT on Robertson!

This new outdoor activation allows local businesses to expand their operations onto Robertson Boulevard on Saturdays a... See More

ii) **Weekends are now for epic nights & brunch bites.**

Sat 6 PM – 2 AM
Sun 7 AM – 2 AM
5) Display DV/IPV signage and social media awareness during **Pride Month of June**. People from all over come into West Hollywood for celebrations. It is our recommendation to the city to convey DV/IPV awareness and resources to all residents and visitors alike.
   a. Have select displays/outreach throughout the year.

6) Under the “Domestic Violence and Partner Abuse Resources” link on the City’s social services website:
   a) Include “and Domestic Violence” to the Rape header.
   b) Additionally, if possible, include definitions and/or examples of SOGI DV/IPV so that people can better understand if this applies to them and how to approach. The way the current page reads, if someone is experiencing trauma from rape or violence against them, it may be difficult to understand what the right steps are, especially members of the LGBTQ community. Current page: [https://www.weho.org/services/social-services/domestic-violence-and-partner-abuse-resources](https://www.weho.org/services/social-services/domestic-violence-and-partner-abuse-resources)
   c) ADD: National Domestic Violence Hotline (that is on Safer at Home graphic) 800-799-SAFE
   d) ADD: LA County Domestic Violence Hotline (24/7 Confidential): (800) 978-3600
   e) Overhaul of West Hollywood website to ensure accurate help numbers and information - INCLUDING WEST HOLLYWOOD SHERIFF AND THEIR RESPONSE TO DV/IVP
NOTE: Below is a horrific story and example of the dismissive response from West Hollywood Sheriff regarding DV/IPV and the need for improvement.

Hollywood Model Iana Kasian Tortured, Scalped, And Drained Of Blood By Graphic Novelist Boyfriend Blake Leibel

"Her life is in danger," mother tells dispatcher in desperate 911 call

The Unspeakable Torture And Murder Of Hollywood Model Iana Kasian By Graphic Novelist Blake Leibel

The next day, Olga Kasian panicked. She couldn’t reach her daughter, so she called the police. It took several days for authorities to agree that something was wrong.
Other SubCommittee Notes and Considerations

1. **Host a Take Back the Night Event:** Take Back the Night Foundation is the earliest worldwide effort to combat sexual violence and violence against women. In the 70’s, the issue of violence against women became a topic of public conversation when a number of incidents garnered media attention. In 1972, a group of women at the University of Southern Florida marched through campus demanding resources and safety for women. Then, in 1973, San Francisco citizens protested violent “snuff” pornography films. In October 1975, Philadelphia’s citizens held a public march after the murder of microbiologist Susan Alexander Speeth, who was stabbed to death on the sidewalk near her home after work. In 1976, a tribunal council of women from dozens of countries met in Belgium to discuss unsafe conditions for women. [https://takebackthenight.org/](https://takebackthenight.org/)

2. **Activate Response Team:** OCTOBER 4, 2010 CREATION OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: COUNCILMEMBER LINDSEY HORVATH, COUNCILMEMBER ABBE LAND
   b. [https://www.weho.org/Home/Components/News/News/394/](https://www.weho.org/Home/Components/News/News/394/)

   “The West Hollywood Community Response Team for Domestic Violence will help victims and their families across the spectrum of our diverse populations -- including the LGBT, Russian-speaking and Senior communities”
   “The City of West Hollywood will work with the National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles, a leading local service provider, to bring together all the various domestic violence agencies to ensure that responses will be fast and coordinated. Next, the group will create a public information campaign to re-educate the community.”
3. Fulfill this Motion: MARCH 16, 2020
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION
COUNCILMEMBER LAUREN MEISTER MAYOR JOHN D' AMICO
COMMUNITY & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DIVISION
“The City Council will consider directing staff to advocate for additional protections for victims of domestic violence at the state and federal level and to use the City's social media channels to educate the public on domestic violence issues.”

4. ENGAGE THE WEST HOLLYWOOD AMBASSADORS TO RESPOND TO IMMINENT DV/IVP ACTIVITY
5. STATS UPDATE: West Hollywood Sheriff’s DV/IPV Data
Two Week Period in March: 9 DV Crimes Reported

a. ASSAULT, NON-AGGRAVATED: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
   Incident #: 021-01263-0978
   BLK SHOREHAM DR, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069 | 4/1/2021 @ 2:23 AM

b. ASSAULT, NON-AGGRAVATED: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
   Incident #: 021-01262-0977
   1000 BLK N LA CIENEGA BLVD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 900 | 3/31/2021 @ 11:15 PM

c. ASSAULT, NON-AGGRAVATED: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
   Incident #: 021-01253-0976
   1200 BLK HAVENHURST DR, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069 | 3/31/2021 10:00 AM

d. ASSAULT, AGGRAVATED: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
   Incident #: 021-01199-0977
   900 BLK LARRABEE ST, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069 | 3/26/2021 11:55 PM

e. ASSAULT, NON-AGGRAVATED: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
   Incident #: 021-01166-0974
   1000 BLK OGDEN DR, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046 | 3/24/2021 10:59 PM

f. ASSAULT, AGGRAVATED: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
   Incident #: 021-01139-0975
   1000 BLK HAVENHURST DR, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046 | 3/23/2021 11:39 PM

g. ASSAULT, NON-AGGRAVATED: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
   Incident #: 021-01129-0972
   600 BLK LA PEER DR, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069 | 3/22/2021 5:40 AM

h. ASSAULT, AGGRAVATED: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
   Incident #: 021-01078-0976
   1100 BLK KINGS RD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069 | 3/19/2021 9:45 AM

i. ASSAULT, NON-AGGRAVATED: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
   Incident #: 021-01063-0976
   1200 BLK KINGS RD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069 | 3/18/2021 3:00 PM
6. - APPROVED BOOKLET PER HERNAN: Eve Sheedy, Executive Director of the DV Council of LA County, which is a bureau within the County’s Dept of Public Health. Ms. Sheedy did share a DV brochure eloped by the Department in 2019, which she offered to make it part of our tools.
6 - INFORMATION LINKS FOR REFERENCE:


Prevent Domestic Violence in Your Community

Intimate partner violence is a serious public health problem that affects millions of Americans.

2 - Biden’s Aid Package Funnels Millions to Victims of Domestic Abuse

Biden’s Aid Package Funnels Millions to Victims of Domestic Abuse