

City of Minneapolis
Request for Committee Action

To: Public Safety, Civil Rights & Emergency Management
Date: 10/14/2015
From: City Attorney's Office
Prepared by: Michelle Jacobson
Presented by: Susan Segal, Assistant Chief Arneson, Michelle Jacobson
File type: Receive & File
Subcategory: Report

Subject:

Domestic Violence Update featuring the Domestic Violent Hot Spots Pilot Project in 4th Precinct.

Description:

Domestic Violence Update featuring the Domestic Violent Hot Spots Pilot Project in 4th Precinct.

Previous Actions:

Pledge adopted; staff directed to provide annual updates to City Council regarding progress on goals and measures associated with the Pledge.

Ward/Neighborhood/Address:

Not Applicable

Background/Analysis:

In 2007, the City of Minneapolis, through City Council action, adopted a pledge to reduce domestic violence. Since that pledge, the City Attorney's Office has worked closely with the Minneapolis Police Department, domestic abuse advocates, the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, the courts and other stakeholders to respond more effectively and to help prevent domestic violence in our City.

While the recent domestic homicides serve as a stark reminder of the work yet to be done, much progress has been made since 2007 developing what is known as the "Minneapolis Model for a Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence." In addition to previous reports on the 50% increase in the conviction rates in misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor domestic violence cases, there are several new initiatives that will be reported on at the update. These include a 436% increase in the number of Gone on Arrival cases charged at the Domestic Abuse Service Center (DASC), along with a 46% reduction in the amount of time from a case being reviewed at DASC to the filing of the case in court. The Gone on Arrival cases – where the alleged perpetrator has fled the scene when the police arrive – are particularly significant for increasing victim safety. This increase reflects the additional investigation resources funded through a federal Violence Against Women Act grant.

The update will also include a report on the new Domestic Violence Hot Spots Initiative. This initiative was proposed as part of the City Attorney's 2015 budget requests. The Mayor included the requested funding in her proposed budget and it received unanimous Council support. The initiative complements the Byrne violent crime hot spots planning grant work. The initiative was proposed by the City Attorney based on MPD data showing that the number one call for police service in violent crime hot spots was related to domestic violence. The initiative, developed by the supervisor of the domestic team, pairs an MPD officer with a family therapist to do follow up

visits in violent crime hot spots on the North side where a 911 call for domestic violence has been made but either no police report was written or no criminal case resulted. The goals of the initiative include providing proactive support and referral information for the family, while trying to build trust with the police by offering an opportunity for police to interact with the families in a positive way instead of in an enforcement or 911 response mode. Summary information from the visits is also being used to help inform the planning work for the Byrne violent crime hot spots grant.

The initiative – providing proactive connections – has been achieving positive reaction and we are exploring opportunities to involve Hennepin County Human Services and expanding the initiative to other areas of the City.

Financial Review:

No financial impact.

Attachments:

1. Additional supporting information will be distributed at meeting and to Clerk before meeting.