Memorandum

DATE: March 22, 2013

TO: Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: Domestic Violence Unit Lethality Assessment Program

Attached is briefing material on the “Domestic Violence Unit Lethality Assessment Program” to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, March 25, 2013.

A.C. Gonzalez
First Assistant City Manager

Attachment

CC: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager
Rosa Rios, City Secretary
Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Judge Daniel Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Frank Librio, Public Information Office
Stephanie Cooper, Assistant to the City Manager
Domestic Violence Unit
Lethality Assessment Program
Public Safety Committee
March 25, 2013
Purpose

• Provide update on the history and purpose of the Lethality Assessment Program
  – Update statistics after 6 month
  – Show form changes
Goals

• Reduce Domestic Violence by:
  – Identifying victims who are at the greatest risk of Serious Bodily Injury or Death,
  – If necessary, getting them out of harm’s way, and
  – Encouraging them to go into Domestic Violence services.
History

• Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell of John Hopkins University in Maryland.
• DPD applied and was approved for the grant in April 2012.
• The Family Place & Genesis Women’s Shelter are our partners.
Training
July 2012
Form Change

• The new form will have the DPD logo along with our advocate partners logo.

• Five questions were added to track:
  – Sex of victim
  – Sex of suspect
  – Alcohol or drugs involved
  – Suspect status in custody or at large
  – Victim transported to hospital

*The 11 original questions remain intact in order to maintain the integrity of the program.*
# Domestic Violence Lethality Screen for First Responders

**Officer:**

**Date:**

**Case #:**

**Victim:**

**Offender:**

☐ Check here if victim did not answer any of the questions.

- 1. **Yes** response to any of Questions #1-3 automatically triggers the protocol referral.
  - Has he/she ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?  ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ Not Ans.
  - Has he/she threatened to kill you or your children?  ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ Not Ans.
  - Do you think he/she might try to kill you?  ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ Not Ans.

- **Negative responses to Questions #1-3,** but positive responses to at least four of Questions #4-11, trigger the protocol referral.
  - Does he/she have a gun or can he/she get one easily?  ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ Not Ans.
  - Has he/she ever tried to choke you?  ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ Not Ans.
  - Is he/she violent or constantly jealous or does he/she control most of your daily activities?  ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ Not Ans.
  - Have you left him/her or separated after living together or being married?  ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ Not Ans.
  - Is he/she unemployed?  ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ Not Ans.
  - Has he/she ever tried to kill himself/herself?  ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ Not Ans.
  - Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/her?  ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ Not Ans.
  - Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?  ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ Not Ans.

- An officer may trigger the protocol referral, if not already triggered above, as a result of the victim’s response to the below question, or when the officer believes the victim is in a potentially lethal situation.

Is there anything else that worries you about your safety? (‘Yes’/’No’) What worries you?

- What is the victim’s gender?  ○ Male  ○ Female
- What is the suspect’s gender?  ○ Male  ○ Female
- Was the Victim Transported to a Hospital?  ○ Yes  ○ No
- Was the suspect intoxicated during this offense?  ○ Yes  ○ No
- Is the suspect At Large?  ○ Yes  ○ No

Check one:  ○ Victim screened in according to the protocol
  ○ Victim screened in based on the belief of officer
  ○ Victim did not screen in

If victim screened in: After advising her/him of a high danger assessment, did the victim speak with the hotline counselor?  ○ Yes  ○ No  ○
Synopsis on Use

• Patrol Officer fills out the form and placed into the Domestic Violence Packet.
• Data is entered and tracked by the Domestic Violence Unit and shared with advocate partners.
• Form is forwarded with the packet to the District Attorney for use during prosecution.
• Form customized for DPD use.
• Adaptable, can be modified in the future as need arises.
Lethality Assessment Results
Update

* Lethality Assessment Dallas Police Department October 1, 2012 to March 8, 2013 *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES RESPONSES</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has he/she ever used weapon against you?</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has he/she ever threatened to kill you?</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you think he/she might kill you or your children?</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does he/she have a gun or can he/she get one?</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has he/she ever choked you?</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is he/she violently or constantly jealous or does he control most of your daily activities?</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you left him/her or separated after living together or being married?</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is he/she employed?</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has he/she ever tried to kill himself/herself?</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/hers?</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did victim speak with hotline counselor?</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim “screened in” according to the protocol</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim “screened in” based on the officer’s observations</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim did not screen in</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No answer to screening questions</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Surveys in this Report</td>
<td>1,879</td>
<td>3,044</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Significant factors that remain high during the screening during intimate partner violence *
Anticipated Results From Program

- Increase in victims taking advantage of Domestic Violence resources
- Frequency of Domestic Violence injuries reduced
- Lives Saved
Summary

The Domestic Violence Unit implemented the Lethality Assessment Program in October 2012. We will continue to use it as a permanent tool and as an aid in the prevention of Domestic Violence. This will help preserve lives in the future by identifying those that may be at a higher risk of death.
QUESTIONS?