



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Vice Mayor Magdalena  
Carrasco

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** January 4, 2018

**APPROVE:**

**DATE:**

January 4, 2018

**SUBJECT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STUDY SESSION**

## RECOMMENDATION

- A. Set a Study Session on the City of San José Domestic Violence response for Friday, February 9, 2018, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

## PURPOSE OF STUDY SESSION

- A comprehensive overview of efforts to address Domestic Violence within the City;
- An opportunity to hear from a panel of residents whose lives have been impacted by Domestic Violence, including survivors and loved ones; and
- An opportunity for the public to learn about the San José Police Department's response to domestic violence and how residents can gain access to the available services.
- A briefing on the Santa Clara County Intimate Partner Violence Blue Ribbon Task Force's most recent report, "Working Together to Promote Healthy and Safe Relationships in Santa Clara County."

## OUTCOME

Expected outcome is to provide the Council with an opportunity to hear from people whose lives have been impacted by Domestic Violence and to learn more about ways the City can do more to address the issue. This Study Session will provide critical information as we head into the 2018-2019 Budget Process and make decisions about how to allocate resources to serve our constituents. Additionally, it may provide an opportunity to add to our legislative priorities and support legislation at the State and Federal levels that helps prevent Domestic Violence, as well as serve those who are impacted by it.

## RULES AND OPEN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

December 14, 2017

### **Subject: Domestic Violence Study Session**

Page 2

#### **BACKGROUND**

We have seen an increase of domestic violence incidents in the City of San José over the past five years. In 2016, we had 1,794 incidents compared to 1,934 this year which equates to 140 more violent encounters in our city. As we know this crime is disproportionately underreported which means this increase is only a small representation of what is happening in our communities. In January 2016, Santa Clara County convened the Intimate Partner Violence Blue Ribbon Task Force. The Task Force released a report this year with recommendations to address the violence. The proposed Study Session would provide an opportunity for the City Council to be briefed on these recommendations. Some of the key findings include the shortage of 1,934 beds due to lack of funding in 2014-2015. Only 6% per emergency shelter beds are dedicated to Domestic Violence Survivors in our County. In 2014, 20,322 calls were made to the crisis hotline. Since 2000, over 178 lives were lost due to domestic violence.

The Taskforce determined four pillars that could impact the problem. First, build capacity for effective response. Second build the system that would integrate best practices. Third, empower the survivor which could be done by fostering our collaborating and network. The fourth pillar is prevention which we could assist by promoting community education. The report recognizes the critical role of collaboration in addressing the issue. There is a need to take a larger role in the development of policy, coordination of resources and providing a platform to raise awareness of domestic violence in our community. The Study Session will provide a forum in which we can address rising trends, with our agencies to better coordinate between local, state and federal levels, and coordinate a targeted response.

#### **ANALYSIS**

The City of San José could strengthen the partnerships with the County of Santa Clara, advocates, and the community to better address the increase of domestic violence within our community. There is more the City could do (within budget constraints), and there are things each Councilmember can do, but first there is a need for education given that Domestic Violence happens behind closed doors, is a taboo topic within many communities, and remains hidden from sight. One of the critical roles the Council plays is shining a light on issues in our community and advocating for our residents and their needs. Study Sessions provide an opportunity to do just that.

For questions please contact Frances Herbert, Chief of Staff at 408-535-4948 or [frances.herbert@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:frances.herbert@sanjoseca.gov).