



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
OFFICE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR'S OFFICE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTINUE THEIR CITY-WIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE VICTIMS TO SEEK HELP

A targeted effort in an area of the Bronx with high concentration of Domestic Violence Homicides

On Friday, October 28, 2011, the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) and the New York City Police Department (NYPD) continued their grassroots community outreach efforts to raise awareness about domestic violence and promote services available to victims in the Bronx.

This effort, which marks the culmination of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, will take place at the busy intersection of 161st Street and River Ave. in the Bronx, an area where findings of a community assessment conducted by OCDV reflects a high concentration of domestic violence homicides.

During that assessment, almost 75% of the community members surveyed reported that domestic violence was common in their neighborhood AND half reported knowing a relative or friend that was a victim of domestic violence. Moreover, while many community members know someone who is a victim, more than half reported that they were not aware of any services available for domestic violence victims.

"Raising public awareness about domestic violence is critical to preventing future violence," said OCDV Commissioner Yolanda Jimenez. "We encourage victims to seek help at our Family Justice Centers."

This outreach continues a collaboration that began last June, when OCDV, the NYPD and community groups partnered to hand out thousand of domestic violence public education materials across the Bronx, in an effort to distribute information about services available to victims of domestic violence. Earlier last year, Mayor Bloomberg opened a Family Justice

Center in the Bronx, located at 198 East 161st Street. Since opening, the Bronx Family Justice Center has helped 7,882 clients and their 1,775 children in a total of 18,791 client visits.

The City currently operates three Family Justice Centers, in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. Since 2005, the Centers have collectively recorded 143,000 visits, with a daily average of over 130 visits. Services available at all of the Centers include safety planning, civil legal information, assistance with filing police and probation reports, counseling and support groups, prosecution of domestic violence crimes, services for the elderly and/or disabled, assistance with accessing emergency shelter and housing, job training, resume assistance, English as a Second Language classes, language interpretation services, child care, and counseling for children who have witnessed domestic violence. Services are available to victims regardless of their language or immigration status.

The New York City Family Justice Centers are a public-private partnership through the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization established to promote partnerships between the City and the private sector, www.nyc.gov/fund.

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, please call 311 or the City's 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-621-HOPE for more information. In an emergency call 911.

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