



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

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence

BE THE CHANGE: STAND UP FOR TRUST, RESPECT, AND EQUALITY ON STATEN ISLAND

MAYOR'S OFFICE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE JOINS ONE BILLION RISING FOR JUSTICE WORLD-WIDE CAMPAIGN

In recognition of February's Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and in support of the One Billion Rising for Justice campaign, the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) sponsored an event today at the Staten Island Ferry, St. George Terminal to raise awareness about the dynamics of domestic violence and promote healthy relationships.

OCDV's Staten Island Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) and community partners handed out materials and information to hundreds of commuters about healthy relationships, where to get help if someone is being abused, and how to join OCDV's #HealthySelfie social media campaign which encourages New Yorkers to express what trust, respect and equality mean in the context of a healthy relationship. In coordination with the event, a message from OCDV was displayed on the zippertron at the Staten Island Ferry, Whitehall Terminal letting commuters know that help is available if they are in an abusive relationship. This event was originally scheduled to be part of the "One Billion Rising" events throughout the City earlier in the month, but was postponed due to weather.

"Recognizing warning signs of abuse is key to preventing violence before it escalates, and outreach efforts like these let New Yorkers know that if someone they love is abusing them, they are not alone and help is available," said Commissioner Pierre-Louis.

"Abuse comes in many forms; it is not just physical violence. By providing information about healthy relationships we are raising awareness about the dynamics of domestic violence and, most importantly, letting people know where to go for help." said Elizabeth Dank, Executive Director of the Staten Island Family Justice Center and Staten Island DVRT.

For more information about the #HealthySelfie social media campaign visit:
http://www.nyc.gov/html/ocdv/downloads/pdf/Academy_HealthySelfie_Campaign_Flier.pdf.

(more)

One Billion Rising For Justice, created by activist and philanthropist Eve Ensler, is a world-wide campaign and call to action to raise awareness and end violence against women and girls.

About the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence

Created in 2001, the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) formulates policies and programs, monitors the citywide delivery of domestic violence services, and works with diverse communities to increase awareness of domestic violence and make it as easy as possible for victims and their children to get the help that they need regardless of the language they speak or their immigration status. OCDV operates the New York City Family Justice Centers, a private-public initiative that co-locates essential social, civil legal, and self-sufficiency services under one roof. In addition, city domestic violence prosecutors are located in the Centers.

About the Staten Island Domestic Violence Response Team

The Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) provides rapid response to high-risk cases by facilitating interagency coordination and collaboration to effectively meet the service and safety needs of clients. DVRT seeks to preventatively reduce the incidence of homicide and develops recommendations to enhance and streamline the delivery of City services to domestic violence victims. Currently, DVRT is accepting referrals for victims of domestic violence and elder abuse who live in or had an incident occur in Staten Island.

For help from the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence or to locate the Family Justice Center near you visit www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence or call 311 or 1-800-621-4673.

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