



Police Department

October 1, 2020

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time established to promote solidarity, raise awareness, and provide support for victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence (DV) is a serious, and unfortunately, a very common crime that impacts millions of Americans every year. Anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender can be a victim of domestic violence. For victims, leaving an abusive relationship can be an extremely difficult process, as they often feel physically threatened, psychologically beaten down, or financially controlled. This year, the COVID-19 crisis has unfortunately left many victims of domestic violence struggling to find food, safe housing, and transportation. In this month's edition, I would like to highlight the ways the Chula Vista Police Department is dedicated to stop the violence and break the cycle of abuse.

Did you know...

- Domestic Violence is one of the top crimes in the City of Chula Vista. It is the **number two** type of police call for service. Each year, there are more than 3,700 Domestic Violence incidents, with about 1,200 of those incidents resulting in actual crimes.
- According to the CDC, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will experience physical violence by their intimate partner at some point during their lifetimes.

The **Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)** was a study developed to address domestic disputes, domestic violence, and other DV related crimes more effectively. The study was localized to one sector of the city. When officers responded to DV related calls, they provided suspects and victims with educational handouts including a signed zero tolerance acknowledgement and conducted follow-up visits. The results revealed a noticeable reduction in the number of DV incidents, as well as an increase in victim satisfaction. In 2019, Our Domestic Violence Program was named the Herman Goldstein Award recipient for Excellence in Problem Oriented Policing. The award recognizes innovative and effective problem-oriented policing (POP) projects that have achieved measurable success in resolving crime and disorder problems.

The **Domestic Violence Protocol** was established to expand the DART study and to address DV related calls for service across the entire city (all four sectors). The goal of the DV Protocol is to reduce domestic violence by focusing on offenders instead of victims. Following a DV incident, the suspect receives a follow-up text message within one week that notifies the suspect that the Chula Vista Police Department will be checking up on him/her routinely and as needed. A detective from the CVPD Family Protection Unit and/or patrol officers then conduct weekly, unannounced in-person follow-ups on both subjects and victims. Follow-ups are conducted at the subject's home or workplace, and consist of a warning and possible arrest. If no one is home, officers will leave a "We Stopped By" card at the door, letting the involved parties know police officers are actively working to prevent the problems from reoccurring. The follow-ups also provide a strong deterrent for domestic violence offenders against recidivism.

If you are interested in learning more about our domestic violence data and programs, please visit <https://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/police-department/programs/domestic-violence-protocol>.

Please let us know if there are specific public safety issues you would like us to evaluate in the future, or specific topics about which you would like more information. You can share your thoughts by contacting our Community Outreach team at (619) 691-5187 or by visiting our website at <https://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/police-department/contact-us>.

Thank you in advance for your assistance,

Roxana Kennedy, Chief of Police