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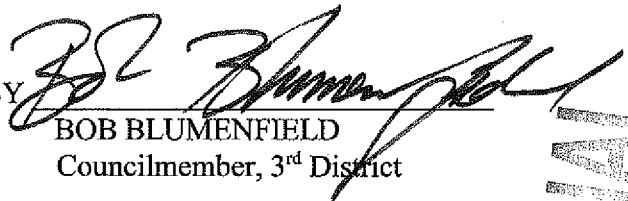
PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

Victims of domestic violence can be subjected to very vulnerable circumstances. Often by the time an incident is reported to law enforcement, the victim has already experienced a tremendous amount of physical or emotional harm. Access to support services then becomes especially critical for ensuring that victims can improve their situation. Victims, however, may not always be aware of the variety of services that are available, such as medical services, shelters, and counseling.

Since law enforcement officers are frequently the first to make contact with a victim who has experienced domestic violence, it is crucial that they can be equipped to refer victims to external support services. The Police Department has at least one type of specialized unit, the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART), which can respond to the scene of a domestic or family violence call and provide intervention through family counseling, referrals to shelters, assistance in obtaining emergency protection orders, and other support services. To ensure that the City is continuing to provide adequate referral information and support services to victims, the Council should review how current efforts are fulfilled.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police Department be instructed to report on the level of coordination that exists with domestic violence support services, how the Domestic Abuse Response Team functions and whether there are any unmet needs, and potential recommendations to strengthen the Department's partnerships with service providers.

PRESENTED BY 
BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY 

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ORIGINAL


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