

MOTION


In an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19, jurisdictions across the country have implemented social distancing and stay at home orders. Non-essential businesses are closed, and residents have been asked to restrict their activities outside of the home to only those activities that are most essential. These restrictions, though necessary, have unintentionally exacerbated an already fragile dynamic for victims of domestic violence - sheltering at home with their abusers makes it much more difficult for victims to safely reach out for help.

While domestic violence service providers continue to provide their services telephonically or online, many traditional routes for victims to seek assistance, such as service centers and police stations, have been closed to the public.

In response, cities and domestic violence service providers are seeking to expand the locations and paths for victims to seek help. During stay at home orders, essential businesses, such as grocery stores and pharmacies, are often the only places victims can go without their abusers. As such, the City should partner with its domestic violence service providers, and essential businesses to create a safe and discreet system by which victims can seek assistance.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police Department, with the assistance of the City Attorney and the City's domestic violence partners, be instructed to report on ways to provide resources for domestic violence victims at essential businesses, and ensure that the public is aware of how to contact service providers and get help.

PRESENTED BY: 
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SECONDED BY: 



ORIGINAL