

MOTION

On March 19, 2020, Mayor Eric Garcetti declared the Safer at Home emergency order requiring city residents to stay at home in order to avoid the spread of COVID-19. While this was a necessary step to protect public health, it has had the unintended consequence of trapping domestic violence victims in their homes with their abusers. The emotional, economic and physical stress of the COVID-19 emergency combined with families being in close proximity to one another for long periods has resulted in a pressure cooker situation for domestic violence. Meanwhile, the Safer at Home order has disrupted or cut off support networks that victims rely on to get help or escape their abusers.

The Safer at Home measures put in place because of the COVID-19 emergency have resulted in an enormous surge in domestic violence. Countries across the globe are reporting large increases in domestic violence incidents over the course of the epidemic. In Los Angeles, there has been a 26% rise in calls to the Domestic Violence Hotline during the first week of the emergency order and a 51% rise in the second week. Because many victims are now unable to contact the police or the hotline, even these statistics might not reflect the actual increase. This is of particular concern in the undocumented immigrant community where fear of seeking government assistance and lack of resources means there are likely less cases reported. It is imperative for the city to respond to the current wave of domestic violence and also address the long-term impacts the Safer at Home order will have on abuse victims.

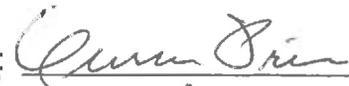
I THEREFORE MOVE to instruct the Housing and Community Investment Department to report back on what actions they are taking to protect domestic violence victims during the period covered by the Safer at Home order and how they're serving and communicating with the undocumented immigrant community on domestic violence issues.

I FURTHER MOVE for Housing and Community Investment Department to report back on how they plan to serve survivors of domestic abuse in the aftermath of the emergency.

PRESENTED BY:

  
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SECONDED BY:

  
for  
Gil Cedillo

ORIGINAL

APR 22 2020

