

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL**

**DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**FINAL REPORT**

**JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2011**

**SPEAK UP - SAVE LIVES**

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**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
JANUARY 1, 2011 - DECEMBER 31, 2011**

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Rolanda Pierre Dixon, Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office (Chair, January - August, 2011)

Caroline Jiminez, Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office  
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Lt. Alan Cavallo, San Jose Police Department, Homicide Division  
Lt. James Randol, San Jose Police Department, Homicide Division  
Lt. Kevin Sabala, San Jose Police Department, Family Violence Division  
Lt. John Rose, San Jose Police Department, Family Violence Division  
Sgt. Jason Herr, San Jose Police Department, Family Violence Unit  
Lt. Dan Rodriguez, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office  
Det. Peter Robinson, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office  
Sgt. Jason Brown, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office  
Det. Mario Perez, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office  
Sgt. Dave Poso, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office  
Detective Dan Bybee, Palo Alto Police Department  
Buu Thai, Office of Women's Policy  
Perla Flores, Community Solutions  
Carl McGrew, Pretrial Services  
David Tran, SV Faces - Victim Witness Assistance  
Jonathan Weinberg, Department of Children and Family Services  
Fatima Silva, Community Solutions  
Eve Castellanos, City of San Jose  
Lt. Craig Anderson, Sunnyvale Department of Corrections  
Martha DeJesus, Santa Clara County Probation Department  
Cynthia Spencer, Children's Attorney  
Barbara Krzyckowska, MFT, Community Psychotherapy Institute  
Marla Johanning LCSW, Department of Family and Children Services  
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Bart Sloan, Santa Clara County Probation Department  
Dr. Joseph O'Hara, Santa Clara County Medical Examiner/Coroner's Office  
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Frank Del Fiugo, MFT, Turning Point Counseling  
Alice Saelee, Asian Americans for Community Involvement  
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Melina Garcia, Next Door Solutions  
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Anne Manley, MSW, Department of Social Services, Adult Protective Services  
Lt. Blanca Hoyt, Sheriff's Office Custody Bureau  
Christiana Blawie, Pretrial Services  
Sarah Scofield, LCSW, Director Family Court Services  
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Susan Ditter, M.D., Santa Clara County Department of Psychiatry

**FINAL REPORT**  
**JANUARY 1, 2011 – DECEMBER 31, 2011**  
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
by Steven Dick, Chair

The Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Death Review Committee (**DVDRC**) was established by the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council in October, 1994. The DVDRC currently operates as a sub-committee of the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council Executive Committee.

The DVDRC conducts a case by case review of all domestic violence related deaths in Santa Clara County. This review thoroughly examines the lives of the victims and perpetrators, including an analysis of all contacts the individuals had with the criminal justice system, mental health services, or any other social service program. After a thorough examination of each case, the DVDRC will make recommendations if the DVDRC discovers gaps in services, policies, and/or procedures. The DVDRC communicates the recommendations directly to the appropriate community agencies and through the DVDRC's Annual Report, which is given to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council.

Membership of the DVDRC consists of a cross-section of all the organizations in Santa Clara County that deal with domestic violence victims, perpetrators, and their children. Committee members come from the Office of the District Attorney, San José's Family Domestic Violence Advisory Board, local law enforcement agencies, the therapeutic community, victim advocacy agencies, the Probation Department, the Department of Corrections, Pretrial Services, the Department of Family and Children's Services, Adult Protective Services, Family Court Services, Family Law Bar, Asian Pacific Family Communities Against Domestic Violence, Victim Witness, the GLBT community, batterer's intervention programs, the Medical Examiner/Coroner's office, Public Health, and the Family Law Bar.

The concept for the DVDRC began in early 1994 when a representative of the United States Department of Justice visited the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council and requested that the Council create a domestic violence-related death review committee. The DVDRC was created in response to this request.

In 1995, the California Legislature enacted Penal Code section 11163.3 which allowed all California counties to establish an interagency domestic violence death review team. These teams would coordinate and integrate state and local efforts to address fatal domestic violence and create a body of information which would prevent domestic violence deaths. Santa Clara County was one of the first counties in California to create such a team.

In 1996, the California legislature expanded Penal Code section 11163.3. As a result of the new legislation, information shared in death review committee meetings was to be confidential and not subject to disclosure or discovery by a third party. Recommendations may be disclosed at the discretion of a majority of the team members.

Today every member of the DVDRC signs a confidentiality agreement requiring that all information discussed in committee meetings remain confidential. The only agreed upon

public disclosure of cases involves statistics and fact patterns. The names of particular victims and perpetrators are removed out of respect to victims, family members, and survivors. The signed agreement is kept on file by the committee chair. A copy of the confidentiality agreement is provided in Attachment 1.

While the California State Legislature was creating the statutory regulations for domestic violence review committees, the DVDRC held a series of meetings in the mid-1990s focusing on its mission and the definition of the term “domestic violence related death.” The committee reached a consensus and created a definition that is still used today.

The DVDRC defines a “domestic violence related death” as a death that occurs when the perpetrator and victim were involved in an intimate relationship, either at the time of death or prior to the death. A time of separation between the parties does not preclude a review of an incident if domestic violence was the catalyst for the deaths. A “domestic violence related death” also includes the death of a family member(s), friend(s), and community member(s) if the motivation of the homicide is due to domestic violence. “Domestic violence related deaths” include homicides, homicide/suicides, suicides, fatal accidents, and blue suicides. Blue suicides are those situations where an individual threatens to kill police officers, verbally or by use of a weapon, and intends that the police will respond by shooting them.

Each decedent is counted separately and given their own number, even if multiple people die during one incident.

The committee members are adamant that all discovered information is to be used to accomplish the constructive work of advocating for system-wide change and protecting future victims. The committee’s job is not to point fingers or place blame but discover and help implement life-saving policies and procedures. The members of the DVDRC firmly believe that many lives have been saved as a result of the work that this committee has conducted since 1994.

**OVERVIEW OF THE  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED DEATHS  
IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY DURING 2011**

The DVDRC 2011 Final Report will analyze the ten (10) separate identified domestic violence related incidents which resulted in sixteen (16) deaths during 2011. This is the largest number of domestic violence related incidents and deaths in Santa Clara County since 2003.

The sixteen domestic violence related deaths in 2011 included eleven (11) people who were murdered and five (5) who committed suicide. This is an increase from 2010 when there were five (5) domestic violence related deaths including three (3) individuals who were murdered and two (2) who committed suicide. In 2009 there were eleven (11) domestic violence related deaths; six (6) people were murdered, four (4) committed suicide, and one (1) died due to a vehicular homicide. Attachment 2 lists the domestic violence related deaths in Santa Clara County since 2000.

The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office filed criminal complaints alleging a violation of Penal Code section 187, Murder, against six (6) defendants.

There were no minor children murdered this year in a domestic violence related incident; however, one adult child was killed by his father. In a separate incident, one (1) minor child and one (1) adult child were left without a parent due to a homicide/suicide.

There were nine (9) male perpetrators and one (1) female perpetrator.

There was one (1) perpetrator from the LGBT community.

The average age of the ten (10) perpetrators was approximately forty-six (46).

The ethnic background of the decedents included an African-American, three (3) Asians, eight (8) Caucasians, two (2) Hispanics, and one person of Middle Eastern decent.

The ethnic background of the perpetrators included someone from Africa, an African-American, three (3) Caucasians, two (2) Hispanics, and one (1) person of Middle Eastern decent.

The perpetrators and victims came from significantly different socio-economic backgrounds including people who were impoverished, middle class, and wealthy.

The main theme that came out of the DVDRC's analysis is that domestic violence affects every aspect of our community. It is not just a problem for those in a particular economic class, ethnicity, religious group, or of a particular sexual orientation. Domestic violence permeates all aspects of our community and we must be vigilant in acting to protect everyone from violence.

## 2011 CASE SUMMARIES

**CASE 215 and 216: Homicide/Suicide** - The perpetrator, age 66, murdered his wife, age 68, by shooting her in the head and then shooting himself. The couple had been married for 43 years. The perpetrator had recently filed for bankruptcy and was having a difficult time financially. There was no known history of domestic violence. The perpetrator may have been suffering from depression.

**CASE 217: Homicide** - The perpetrator, age 26, and victim, age 27 romantically lived together for a brief period of time. The victim told the perpetrator that the relationship was over and that she was dating another man. The perpetrator responded by stabbing the victim multiple times.

**CASE 218: Homicide** – Cold Case from 2005. This incident was not analyzed for the 2011 report.

**CASE 219 and 220: Homicide/Suicide** – The perpetrator, age 51, began dating the victim, age 50, when they were in high school. They had two adult children. The perpetrator had an unreported history of being verbally abusive and had been out of work for approximately six years. Toward the end of their relationship, the victim and perpetrator slept in separate rooms. The victim had finally decided to end their marriage and served divorce papers on the perpetrator. The victim was arranging to move out of the residence when the perpetrator bludgeoned the victim to death and then shot himself.

**CASE 221, 222 and 223: Homicide/Suicide** – The perpetrator, age 54, murdered his second wife, age 25, and a male companion, age 26. The perpetrator believed that his wife was having an affair and was going to end their relationship. His wife was a student at a local university. One evening after class, the victim and a friend from school, walked to the victim's car which was parked in a university parking lot. The perpetrator was waiting in the parking lot. He walked up to his wife and the male student, and shot both victims at point blank range. The perpetrator then shot himself.

**CASE 224 and 225: Homicide/Suicide** – The perpetrator, age 50, killed himself and his 22 year old son. The perpetrator's wife had moved out of the family home two weeks before the fatal incident. The perpetrator's wife had filed for divorce and obtained a protective order protecting herself and their daughter. Their son asked not to be on the restraining order and he continued to live with the perpetrator. The perpetrator had a registered firearm which was never removed from the house and was used in the homicide/suicide. The perpetrator committed the homicide/suicide the day before the initial court hearing was scheduled for the divorce and protective order. The divorce papers were left prominently on display by the perpetrator in the middle of his kitchen.

**CASE 226: Homicide** – The perpetrator, age 48, murdered his girlfriend, age 33. The murder was accomplished by multiple stabbings at the victim's home. No children were present. The case is still being investigated by local law enforcement.

**CASE 227: Homicide** - The victim, age 52, was murdered by her boyfriend, age 51. The victim and perpetrator were homeless and slept in vacant buildings. One evening they

were arguing and the perpetrator stabbed the victim multiple times. There was a documented history of drug abuse and mental health issues.

**CASE 228: Homicide -** The perpetrator, age 23, killed his former wife, age 31. The perpetrator drove his former wife to a secluded location and shot her multiple times. There had been a documented history of domestic violence between the couple.

**CASE 229 and 230: Homicide –** The perpetrator, age 51, murdered his wife, age 43, with a gun and then killed himself. They had two children, one minor child and one adult. The couple was having problems in their marriage and the victim was dating another person. The perpetrator asked the children to leave their house and complete an errand. While they were gone he committed the homicide/suicide.

**CASE 231: Homicide -** The perpetrator, age 40, murdered her same sex wife's mother (perpetrator's mother-in-law), age 67. The perpetrator married her partner at a time when same sex marriage was legal in California. They were having difficulties in their relationship. The victim's daughter sent a text message to the perpetrator stating that their relationship was over. Later that evening the perpetrator used a machete to kill her mother-in-law.



## **STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

### **I. OVERVIEW**

Decedents:	16
Number of Incidents:	10
Homicide Victims:	11
Suicides:	5

### **II MANNER OF DEATHS**

Gun shot:	11
Stabbing:	3
Physical Beating:	1
Machete:	1

### **III. LOCATIONS OF DEATHS**

Victim's Residence:	3
Perpetrator Residence:	1
Victim and Perpetrator's Joint Residence:	8
Public Place:	4

### **IV. POLICE AGENCIES INVOLVED**

1. 5 deaths investigated by San Jose Police Dept.
2. 0 deaths investigated by Mountain View Police Dept.
3. 0 deaths investigated by California Highway Patrol
4. 0 deaths investigated by Campbell Police Dept.
5. 2 deaths investigated by Gilroy Police Dept.
6. 0 deaths investigated by Los Altos Police Dept.
7. 0 deaths investigated by Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Dept.
8. 0 deaths investigated by Milpitas Police Dept.
9. 0 deaths investigated by Morgan Hill Police Dept.
10. 0 deaths investigated by Palo Alto Police Dept.
11. 6 deaths investigated by Santa Clara County Sheriff's Dept.
12. 0 deaths investigated by Santa Clara Police Dept.
13. 0 death investigated by Sunnyvale Dept. of Public Safety
14. 3 deaths investigated by San Jose State University Police Department

### **V. SOCIAL IDENTIFIERS**

#### **1. Ages**

Female Homicide Victims:	22, 27, 32, 33, 43, 51, 52, 65, 68
Male Homicide Victims:	22, 26
Male Perpetrators:	23, 26, 48, 50, 50, 51, 54, 55, 66
Female Perpetrators:	41

2. **Race/Ethnicity of Decedents**

African American: 1  
Asian: 3  
Caucasian: 8  
Hispanic: 2  
Middle Eastern 2

3. **Race/Ethnicity of Perpetrators**

African American: 1  
African: 1  
Asian: 2  
Middle Eastern 1  
Caucasian: 3  
Hispanic: 2

4. **Gender of Decedents**

Female: 9  
Male: 7

5. **Gender of Perpetrators**

Female: 1  
Male: 9

6. **Same Gender Couples**

1

VI. **CHILDREN**

1. **Number of Children –Homicide Victims**

1 Adult Child

2. **Minor Children Present At Time of Incident**

0

3. **Number of Children Whose Parents were Decedents**

1 minor child and 4 adult children lost both parents.  
4 minor children and three adult children lost one parent.

## VI. RELATIONSHIP HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS OF PARTIES

### 1. Type of relationship at time of death

Married:	1
Divorced:	1
Married and filed for divorce:	1
Married and discussed separation:	3
Married and separated	1
Dating but discussing separation	2
Dating	1

### 2. Length of Relationship

The length of relationship ranged from 10 months to 43 years.

### 3. Prior Police Reports of Domestic Violence

Approximately 2 of incidents involved a perpetrator with prior acts of domestic violence that had been reported to law enforcement.

### 4. Restraining Orders

Approximately 2 incidents involved relationships that had restraining orders:

Criminal Protective Order allowing peaceful contact:	1
Civil No Contact Order protecting a different person other than the decedent:	1

### 5. Known Occupations of Homicide Victim

Former Social Worker  
Sales representative  
Bank Employee  
Unemployed  
Student - 3

### 6. Known Occupations of Perpetrators

Real Estate  
Unemployed  
Owned a car business  
President of Business  
Police Officer  
Nurse

7. **Known Educational Level of Perpetrators**

High school: 1  
College: 2

8. **Known Educational Level of Victims**

High school: 1  
College: 3

9. **Met and Began Dating as Teens**

2 Decedents – 1 incident involving a homicide/suicide.

10. **Immigrant Victim**

The DVDRC defines Immigrant as a person who has been in the United States for 10 years or fewer. We do not look at legal status.

At least one decedent, possibly two (unsure of date of entry), was classified as an immigrant victim.

## **RED FLAGS AND CHARACTER TRAITS FOR POTENTIAL LETHAL SITUATIONS**

Domestic violence homicides at their core are about one individual's desire to have absolute power and control over another person. When a perpetrator begins to feel that power eroding, they will do whatever they can to regain power, including killing the people they seek to control. In the end, the perpetrator ensures that the victim cannot leave and start a new life. Children, other family members, neighbors, co-workers, and innocent bystanders are all put at risk if they are near when the violence erupts. We must continue to educate the public on these issues and help people understand that reporting domestic violence **saves lives and that intervention** is necessary.

The DVDRC has identified numerous "red flags," or factors that may precede a domestic violence related death. These red flags may not apply in every situation but may signal that a person is at risk. We hope that people will recognize these risk factors and seek help before it is too late. Risk factors include:

- (1) Separation or talk of ending the relationship.
- (2) Extreme jealousy and/or possessiveness.
- (3) Controlling behaviors, including social isolation, financial dependency (limiting access to money and information about finances), threats involving taking away children, threats regarding deportation, and extensive monitoring of daily activities.
- (4) Prior reported and unreported acts of domestic violence.
- (5) Stalking behavior.
- (6) Threats of suicide and/or homicide.
- (7) Kidnapping or falsely imprisoning someone.
- (8) The lack of any, or very few, friends outside the relationship.
- (9) Untreated and inadequately treated mental health conditions, including issues stemming from early childhood trauma and depression.
- (10) Previous use of weapons or threat of using weapons.
- (11) Access to firearms- sometimes legally obtained especially once a person has been served a protective order and has not relinquished their firearms.
- (12) Prior strangulation and choking.
- (13) A need to "co-opt" a partner's friends to monitor a person's activities.
- (14) Mental health issues. Aging may exasperate mental illnesses making a person more dangerous.
- (15) An over important sense of self and a lack of empathy for anyone else, including children, possibly increasing the risk to family members and friends.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE'S RESPONSE –**  
**TASKS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2011**

The DVDRC is committed to informing the general public about domestic violence and its deadly consequences. In 2011, DVDRC members made presentations at various conferences and workshops in Santa Clara County and throughout the country. These presentations were made to professional and lay groups, medical groups, law students, medical students, college students, high school students and parent/teacher organizations.

The DVDRC also worked closely with the San José City Family/Domestic Violence Advisory Board, the Court Systems Committee, Police Victim Relations Committee, and the Executive Committee of the Domestic Violence Council in creating policies and procedures to combat domestic violence.

The DVDRC made a concerted effort in 2011 to create programs and procedures that help remove firearms from perpetrators of domestic violence. Members worked with the courts and law enforcement agencies on developing measures to ensure firearms are relinquished from people who have been served with both criminal and civil protective orders. The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department serves many of the civil protective orders in Santa Clara County, and through collaboration with the DVDRC, they have agreed to request immediate surrender of firearms and ammunition at the time of serving civil protective orders. The DVDRC will continue to work to legally remove firearms and ammunition from restrained parties.

The DVDRC is also working with victim advocacy agencies and law enforcement agencies to develop programs and policies to protect victims who are in high risk situations. These programs include conducting lethality assessment surveys, connecting victims to advocacy centers quickly, and conducting follow-up telephone conversation when appropriate.

**We will continue to track and study domestic violence related death cases. We are convinced that this work saves members of our community from a premature and tragic death.**

## COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Numerous agencies throughout Santa Clara County work to protect victims of domestic violence as well as their families and friends. There are also numerous organizations that justly prosecute and rehabilitate perpetrators of domestic violence. The DVDRC believes that the continued work of these agencies and organizations contribute to improving the lives of Santa Clara County citizens.

There are many examples of the outstanding work performed in our community. For example, the thirteen law enforcement agencies in Santa Clara County signed and adhered to the 2011 Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol. The Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol recognizes domestic violence as a crime and contains a “shall arrest policy.” A “shall arrest policy” means where probable cause exists to believe a person committed an act of domestic violence, an arrest shall be effectuated by the responding law enforcement officer. The Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol is reviewed and updated yearly by members of all thirteen agencies, social workers, victim advocates, and other community leaders. Attachment 3 lists the law enforcement agencies that signed the Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol in 2011. Attachment 4 lists some of the local college campus police agencies and security agencies that are involved with protecting domestic violence victims. A copy of the Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol can be found on the Domestic Violence Council’s website.

The Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office issued 1798 misdemeanor and 482 felony complaints in 2011, and the Family Violence Criminal Courts issued protective orders in each of these cases. Santa Clara County Family Law and Civil Courts issued 2646 restraining order in domestic violence cases, which is an increase from the 2252 restraining orders issued in 2010.

Victims’ shelters, domestic violence organizations, batterer treatment groups, and other professionals profoundly combated domestic violence in 2011. These agencies provided services to thousands of victims, perpetrators, and their children. These organizations offered counseling to help families build lives without violence, created safety plans, and helped explain the legal process. These agencies may work with more victims than law enforcement because some victims do not call the police when they are being abused. Attachment 5 lists local victim advocacy organizations. Attachment 6 lists numerous crisis hotline numbers and referral agencies.

The DVDRC wishes to commend all those who work to improve the lives of domestic violence victims, perpetrators, and their children. The DVDRC wishes to specifically commend the following aspects of domestic violence advocacy, community support, law enforcement, and prosecution in Santa Clara County:

- (1) Continued reporting of non-lethal domestic violence incidents by individuals within the county.
- (2) Confiscation of guns at domestic violence incidents by police officers.
- (3) Arrest and thorough follow-up by well trained law enforcement officers.
- (4) Prosecution by the District Attorney’s office.
- (5) Thorough investigation by the Office of Pretrial Services.
- (6) Advocacy support for victims and their children by agencies and programs.

- (7) Appropriate sentences and orders for perpetrators imposed by Judges and enforced by the Probation Department.
- (8) Counseling provided to victims, children and perpetrators.
- (9) Community campaigns on domestic violence.
- (10) In-custody and community intervention programs.
- (11) Increased community awareness through educational programs.
- (12) Collaboration among the government agencies, victim advocacy agencies, and community based organizations on domestic violence issues.
- (13) Collaborations between county agencies, including Adult Protective Services, Pretrial Services, Family Court Services, Probation, DFCS and the District Attorney's Office.
- (14) Workplace violence policies implemented by corporations and businesses which include early detection, intervention, and protection of victims.
- (15) Attorneys appointed for children when domestic violence is discovered

It is our belief that Santa Clara County's cutting-edge policies and procedures helped improve the lives of countless number of people, especially at a time when the economy is struggling to fully recover. The DVDRC recommends that the Board of Supervisors continue to support these and other programs that help improve lives.



## **A MESSAGE TO SURVIVORS: “SEEK HELP!”**

The DVDRC studies domestic violence related deaths within the context of the both lethal and non-lethal acts of domestic violence. In 2011, law enforcement officers referred over three thousand eight hundred and sixty (3860) non-lethal cases of domestic violence to the Santa Clara County District Attorney’s office for review. The Domestic Violence Death Review Committee discussed numerous controlling behaviors that are commonly seen in these domestic violence incidents and encourage individuals to seek help if your partner:

- (1) Threatens you. All threats must be taken seriously, whether or not you feel the perpetrator has the means to follow through on them or says that the threats were just a joke.
- (2) Does not want you to have a life outside of the relationship, including isolating you from friends and family members.
- (3) Becomes emotionally intense and frightening. Listen to your inner voice that says there may be a problem.
- (4) Physically abuses you in any way.
- (5) Keeps you on an emotional roller coaster.
- (6) Does not, cannot, or will not accept you ending the relationship.
- (7) Uses force, coercion, or threats to control you.
- (8) Apologizes profusely for “bad” conduct but then repeats the conduct on other occasions.
- (9) Shows explosive anger not in proportion to the incident.
- (10) Never takes responsibility for the rifts in the relationship and minimizes, denies, and blames you for the perpetrator’s behavior.
- (11) Hides or stows items such as firearms, weapons, and important documents from you.
- (12) Monitors your phone calls, text messages, emails, letters, and computer usage.
- (13) Is extremely jealous and always wants to know your location.
- (14) Wants to have control over your financial situation and restricts your financial independence.
- (15) Wants to know everything about you from the moment you meet, including phone numbers, access codes, and computer passwords.

**A MESSAGE TO FRIENDS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS:**  
**“SPEAK UP – SAVE LIVES”**

The DVDRC’s investigation shows that many times people were aware of serious problems in relationships but did not intervene prior to a fatal incident. Domestic violence does not get better on its own! We all must act when suspecting that a person is a victim of domestic violence. Calling 911 or seeking professional assistance could save a life.

The life saved may even be one of the most vulnerable members of our community – our children. We must act when a child expresses real fear of a parent or if we see that a child is living in dangerous conditions. When children appear vulnerable and in danger of abuse or neglect, everyone should report to the Child Abuse Hotline at the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) or to a local law enforcement agency.

The DVDRC recognizes that a person may not know what to do when they suspect a person is a victim of domestic violence or if a child is at risk. The DVDRC recommends that a person take one or more of the following actions:

1. Call 911.
2. Contact a victim advocacy agency and inquire on ways to help a victim.
3. Ask victims if they are fearful of the perpetrator and why. Let them know that you are there for them.
4. Determine if there are deadly weapons in the home and contact local law enforcement or advocacy agencies about the threat of the use of these weapons.
5. Assist victims in calling a domestic violence shelter to create a safety plan, obtain a restraining order, or seek domestic violence counseling. This is especially important if the victim wishes to end the relationship
6. Take all threats seriously even if the victim says that the perpetrator is just “blowing off steam.”
7. Protect children. Do not be afraid to tell victims and perpetrators that domestic violence is harming their children. When necessary, contact the Child Abuse Hotline at the Department of Children and Family Services.
8. Learn about domestic violence and share the information with others.

**“Speak up – Save lives”** – was the theme chosen by the DVDRC in 2002 and has been endorsed by the Domestic Violence Council, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, and by the City of San José Family/Domestic Violence Advisory Board. The DVDRC has decided to permanently retain this message and continues to urge people to **“Speak up – Save lives.”**

**One phone call can save a loved one’s life!**

**SPEAK UP – SAVE LIVES**

## **RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE DVDRC TO COMMUNITY LEADERS**

The DVDRC has compiled a list of recommendations for the Domestic Violence Council, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, and community leaders. The DVDRC recommends leaders to:

(1) Encourage victims, victims' friends, victims' family members, and community members to speak up and report domestic violence.

(2) Create and implement stronger measures to obtain and collect firearms from perpetrators. This is particularly important after a perpetrator has been served with valid protective order. The public should be informed that anyone who has been served a valid protective order may not possess firearms or ammunition, and that a law enforcement officer may be able to remove firearms at a domestic violence location.

(3) Develop programs in local school districts that address the issues of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Schools should create an environment where children feel safe in reporting domestic violence by setting aside a confidential place for children to report abuse. Finally, schools should actively track the attendance rate of their students because a decline in attendance may be a signal of difficulties at home.

(4) Protect funding and staffing for agencies that counsel, create safety plans, and offer secure living facilities for victims; agencies that counsel perpetrators in order to prevent future acts of domestic violence; and to law enforcement agencies that investigate and prosecute domestic violence cases.

(5) Encourage agencies and social service providers to develop procedures to evaluate high risk and lethal situations and to take appropriate and necessary safety measures. These measures may include safe housing, the creation of a plan to end a relationship, and maintaining contact with victims over an extended period of time. Attorneys, advocates, and law enforcement personnel should receive special training on how to respond to potential lethal situations.

The DVDRC also recommends leaders to continue and enhance policies that:

(1) Encourage all public and private agencies who deal with families in traumatic situations to assess for domestic violence.

(2) Encourage victims to get restraining orders and use them appropriately.

(3) Promote the education of all workplaces on domestic violence so those potential victims can be protected.

(4) Utilize available monies for mental health and legal services for children exposed to domestic violence.

(5) Encourage parents to get parenting classes, which discuss the impact of domestic violence on children.

(6) Promote spending for mental health services for those individuals who commit acts of domestic violence. Untreated and inadequately treated mental health issues underlie cases of domestic violence and domestic violence related deaths. We must find a way to deal with these potential perpetrators before they turn deadly. Federal, state, and local governments must put mental health dollars back into budgets. We must advocate for domestic violence evaluation for every patient who is treated in our mental health facilities brought in on a suicide watch. We also suggest that mental health professionals get extended training on the identification of domestic violence and how to treat it.

(7) Increase education in the community about domestic violence. Efforts should be made to reach out to immigrants; seniors; ethnic minorities; the disabled; as well as the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender communities.

(8) Release and distribute this report to the public.

## **SPEAK UP – SAVE LIVES**

## **CONCLUSION**

Domestic violence affects every aspect of our community regardless of socio-economic status, ethnicity, religious beliefs, age, immigration status, or sexual orientation. Family members, co-workers, and neighbors are often aware of the serious problems in relationships. We hope that when people notice domestic violence, they report the abuse and let victims know that there are options available. Domestic violence will not end on its own.

Our community must continue to educate itself about all forms of domestic violence and realize that these situations may turn deadly. Law enforcement, the courts, pretrial services, probation, victim advocacy agencies, batterer treatment programs, and victims need the help of the community to combat domestic violence. We must all make a concerted effort to become more knowledgeable about domestic violence and to **SPEAK UP** when we know something is wrong. The community must get involved before another victim loses their life.

**We end this report with a final message: Everyone in the domestic violence community is working tirelessly on behalf of victims of domestic violence. We want to see an end to domestic violence in our lifetime. We want peace in our homes. Help us by remembering to:**

**SPEAK UP – SAVE LIVES**

**Respectfully Submitted: The Domestic Violence Death Review Committee 2011**

**Attachment 1: Copy of the DVDRC's Confidentiality Agreement**

**CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE**

I, as a member of the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee agree to keep confidential all information discussed at the death review meetings. I also agree to return all outside case information received in the meeting involving decedents to the Chairperson of the Death Review Committee upon my resignation from the Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**Attachment 2: Domestic Violence Related Death Review Log since 2000**

2000 - 18 domestic violence related deaths (15 separate incidents)  
2001 - 17 domestic violence related deaths (14 separate incidents)  
2002 - 18 domestic violence related deaths (7 separate incidents)  
2003 - 21 domestic violence related deaths (14 separate incidents)  
2004 - 6 domestic violence related deaths (6 separate incidents)  
2005 - 10 domestic violence related deaths (7 separate incidents)  
2006 - 6 domestic violence related deaths (5 separate incidents)  
2007 - 4 domestic violence related deaths (4 separate incidents)  
2008 - 3 domestic violence related deaths (3 separate incidents)  
2009 - 11 domestic violence related deaths (5 separate incidents)  
2010 - 5 domestic violence related deaths (3 separate incidents)  
2011 – 16 domestic violence related deaths (10 separate incidents)

**Attachment 3: Police Agencies in Santa Clara County**

California Highway Patrol	(408) 467-5400
Campbell Police Department	(408) 866-2121
Gilroy Police Department	(408) 846-0300
Los Altos Police Department	(650) 947-2770
Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department	(408) 354-8600
Milpitas Police Department	(408) 586-2400
Morgan Hill Police Department	(408) 776-7300
Mountain View Police Department	(650) 903-6344
Palo Alto Police Department	(650) 329-2406
Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office	(408) 299-2311
San Jose Police Department	(408) 277-5300
Santa Clara Police Department	(408) 615-4700
Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety	(408) 730-7100



#### **Attachment 4: Campus Police and Security Agencies**

De Anza Community College Campus Safety and Security Department 7 a.m. – 12 midnight	(408) 864-5555
Evergreen Valley Community College Police Department 8 a.m. – 11 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. business line only	(408) 270-6468
Foothill Community College Police Department 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. business line 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. emergency line	(650) 949-7313 (650) 949-7911
Gavilan College Security Department 8 a.m. – 11 p.m. Monday-Friday business line only	(408) 848-4703
Mission Community College Police Department 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. business line After hours dispatch line	(408) 748-2797 (408) 299-2311
San Jose City College Police Department 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. dispatch line only; will connect to Evergreen Police Department after 3 p.m.	(408) 288-3735
San Jose State University Department of Public Safety 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. business line 24 hour dispatch line	(408) 924-2185 (408) 924-2222
Santa Clara University Department of Public Safety 24 hour business and dispatch line	(408) 554-4441
Stanford University Department of Public Safety 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday-Friday business line 24 hour non-emergency dispatch line	(650) 723-9633 (650) 329-2413
West Valley Community College Police Department 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. business line After hours dispatch line Investigations Bureau	(408) 741-2092 (408) 299-2311 (408) 741-2068

## **Attachment 5: Victim Advocacy Agencies**

Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) <a href="http://www.AACI.org">www.AACI.org</a>	(408) 975-2730
Community Solutions <a href="http://www.community_solutions.org">www.community_solutions.org</a>	(877) 363-7238
MAITRI <a href="http://www.maitri.org/contact.html">www.maitri.org/contact.html</a>	(888) 862-4874
Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence <a href="http://www.nextdoor.org">www.nextdoor.org</a>	(408) 279-2962
SV Faces – Victim/Witness Assistance Program <a href="http://www.svfaces.org">www.svfaces.org</a>	(408) 295-2656
YWCA Silicon Valley Support Network Program <a href="http://www.YWCA-SV.org">www.YWCA-SV.org</a>	(800) 572-2782

## Attachment 6: Crisis Hotlines and Referral Agencies

### **EMERGENCY POLICE RESPONSE - 911**

Adult Protective Services <a href="http://www.sccgov.org/aps">www.sccgov.org/aps</a>	(800) 414-2002
Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) <a href="http://www.AACI.org">www.AACI.org</a>	(408) 975-2739
Billy DeFrank Center <a href="http://www.defrankcenter.org">www.defrankcenter.org</a>	(408) 293-3040
Charter Legal Services for Children and Youth <a href="http://www.CLS4children.org">www.CLS4children.org</a>	(408) 522-3800
Child Abuse Neglect and Reporting Hotline <a href="http://www.sccgov.org">www.sccgov.org</a>	(408) 299-2071
Community Solutions (South County) <a href="http://www.community_solutions.org">www.community_solutions.org</a>	South County (408) 683-0601 (877) 363-7238
CONTACT (Hotline for all hotlines) <a href="http://www.BillWilsonCenter.org">www.BillWilsonCenter.org</a>	(408) 850-6125
Family Court <a href="http://www.sccourt.org">www.sccourt.org</a>	(408) 534-5600
Family Court Self Help Center <a href="http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov">www.courtinfo.ca.gov</a>	(408) 882-2900
Legal Advocates for Children and Youth (LACY) <a href="http://www.lawfoundation.org/lacy.asp">www.lawfoundation.org/lacy.asp</a>	(408) 280-24146
MAITRI <a href="http://www.maitri.org/contact.html">www.maitri.org/contact.html</a>	(888) 862-4874
National Domestic Violence Hotline <a href="http://www.thehotline.org">www.thehotline.org</a>	(800) 799-7233 (SAFE)
Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence <a href="http://www.nextdoor.org">www.nextdoor.org</a>	(408) 279-2962
Restraining Order Self Help Center <a href="http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov">www.courtinfo.ca.gov</a>	(408) 534-5709
San Jose State Counseling Service (SJSU students) <a href="http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling">www.sjsu.edu/counseling</a>	(408) 924-5910

SJPD Family Violence Center <a href="http://www.sjpd.org/boi/fvc">www.sjpd.org/boi/fvc</a>		(408) 277-3700
Suicide Crisis Service <a href="http://www.suicidehotlines.com/california">www.suicidehotlines.com/california</a>		(408) 279-3312
	North County	(650) 494-8420
	South County	(408) 683-2482
SV Faces - Victim Witness Assistance <a href="http://www.svfaces.org">www.svfaces.org</a>	8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	(408) 295-2656
Victim Notification System (Victims can register and be informed when a defendant is to be released.) <a href="http://www.vinelink.com">www.vinelink.com</a>		(800) 464-3568
YWCA Rape Crisis Center <a href="http://www.YWCA-SV.org">www.YWCA-SV.org</a>		(408) 287-3000
YWCA of Silicon Valley Support Network Program <a href="http://www.YWCA-SV.org">www.YWCA-SV.org</a>		(408) 295-4011
	English/Spanish	(800) 572-2782
	TDD	(650) 490-7857