



# **2010 Annual Report**

By  
The Commission for the Prevention of  
Violence Against Women

Presented To  
The Santa Cruz City Council  
July 2011



The Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women (CPVAW) is pleased to present its 2010 Annual Report to the Santa Cruz City Council.

This comprehensive report covers the current CPVAW programs, events, co-sponsorships, and projects that have taken place this past year. CPVAW Commissioners continually work to fulfill our mission to ensure the best programs and partnerships that help prevent and respond to violence against women within the City of Santa Cruz.

Before the end of this year, we also plan to provide the City Council and our community with comprehensive data on sexual assault in our *Joint Report on Sexual Assault* written in partnership with the Santa Cruz Police Department (SCPD).

This year's highlighted program is Engaging The Bystander — Our Community Responds to Sexual Assault (Domestic Violence). This workshop focuses on prevention and/or response and has been conducted at various locations throughout the County.

On behalf of the CPVAW Commissioners, I thank you for supporting us in our goals to prevent and end violence against women within our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Martine Watkins,  
2010–2011 Chair

## **Background**

The CPVAW was established in 1981 by Ordinance 81-29. This year, it will be celebrating 30 years of service.

## **Vision Statement**

Working to end sexual assault, sexual harassment, and domestic violence in the City of Santa Cruz through prevention, programs, and public policy.

## **Mission Statement**

To collaborate with local stakeholder partners and law enforcement to ensure best practices to respond to and prosecute violent crimes against women.

## **Purpose Statement**

- Make ending violence against all women the highest priority in the City of Santa Cruz,
- Ensure collaboration with other public and private agencies to support existing programs and the development of new programs as needed,
- Facilitate meaningful citizen participation in the work of the CPVAW, and
- Continue to work with law enforcement to develop strategies for the successful prosecution and conviction of the crimes of violence against women.

## **Current Commissioners**

Heather Babcock  
Lisa Johnson

Patricia Christie  
Rossi Polanco  
Martine Watkins

Pamela Comstock  
Kathryn Tobisch

## CURRENT PROGRAMS

### ***Safe Place Network Program***

The Safe Place Network Program is an ongoing, year-round program.

If you find yourself in a situation that is frightening or threatening, a Safe Place Network business will provide you access to a phone and a place to wait for support from police, local agencies, family, or friends.

A pilot program was coordinated in 2009 with the Catalyst to include its establishment in the Safe Place Network Program.



### ***Women and Girls' Public Self-Defense Classes***

Women's public self-defense classes are ongoing and year-round. The classes currently offered include Girls (8–12 years) and Women Allies, Teen Women (13–17 years), Beginning Workshop (18+ years), Beginning Classes (18+ years), Intermediate Classes (18+ years), and Personal Safety for Senior Women (60+ years). In the past year, more than 170 students attended over 28 classes.

Public self-defense classes for women and girls are listed in each City Parks and Recreation Activity Guide. There is a nominal fee for most classes; however, no one is turned away for lack of funds.

### ***Safety Skills/Self-Defense Classes at Santa Cruz City Middle and High Schools***

Since 2007, the CPVAW has partnered with Santa Cruz City Schools to offer safety skills/self-defense classes to girls and boys at local middle and high schools. Almost 5,000 students have taken these classes in the past four academic years. This program, scheduled during physical education classes, provides information on awareness, avoidance, verbal techniques, and physical skills for students. Evaluations from students and teachers continue to indicate that these classes are valued and successful in teaching girls and boys important skills that assist in avoiding or facing difficult, uncomfortable situations.

## ***Banner Project***

Banners are displayed in April for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Banners are again displayed in October for Domestic Violence Prevention Month.

The goal of the CPVAW Banner Project is to raise awareness and to continue to keep the issues of sexual assault and domestic violence as a priority in the City of Santa Cruz.



## ***Coaster Program***

Partnering with Women's Crisis Support – Defensa de Mujeres, the Coaster Program was introduced during April of 2005 to raise awareness regarding the issues of alcohol, sexual assault, consent, and the penal code for rape.

Since the first distribution in 2005, more than 30 bars in the City of Santa Cruz (from Seabright Avenue to Mission Street to the downtown area) have participated throughout the City.



CA PENAL  
CODE 261 (a)(3)  
If you have sex  
with a person who is  
prevented from resisting  
by any intoxicating  
substance...  
**THIS IS RAPE!**

COASTERS FOR THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN • (831) 422-8238

## ***Workplace Response to Domestic Violence***

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, the CPVAW offers the video entitled *Domestic Violence: The Workplace Responds* to local businesses in the Santa Cruz community. This 15-minute video portrays three women's stories and provides excellent information that dispels many of the myths and misconceptions regarding domestic violence.



This is a collaborative effort by the CPVAW, the City of Santa Cruz Administrative Services Department, and the Walnut Avenue Women's Center.

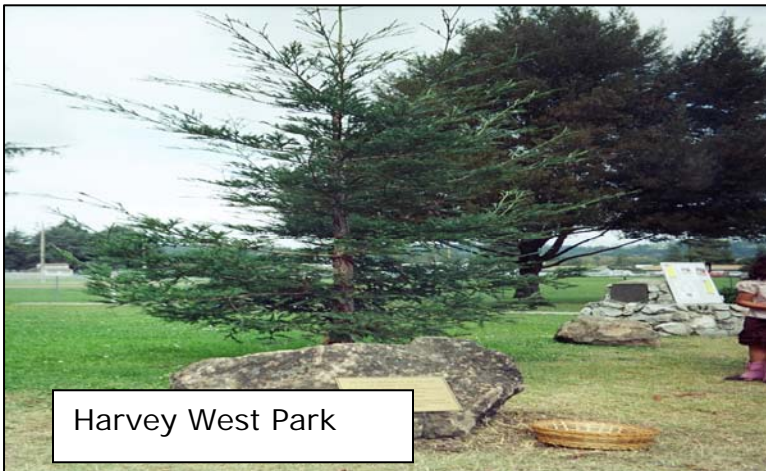
## ***Tree Dedications***

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, the CPVAW has dedicated three trees in various parks around the City to honor those whose lives have been touched by domestic violence.



San Lorenzo Park

In 1999, a tree was dedicated in memory of women who have been killed due to domestic violence.



Harvey West Park

In 2005, a tree was dedicated to the survivors of domestic violence.



Lighthouse Field

In 2007, a tree was dedicated to honor the allies, advocates, and those who work to end domestic violence.

## NEW PROGRAMS FOR 2010

- Resource Cards for Homeless Women
- Bookmarks
- Engaging the Bystander Workshops

## SPOTLIGHTED PROGRAM

### ***Engaging The Bystander — Our Community Responds to Sexual Assault (Domestic Violence)***

The goal of these free, interactive, two-hour workshops is to raise awareness regarding bystander behaviors, as well as provide information for community members and agencies on how to respond effectively, when necessary. While it can be difficult to do something in a frightening and difficult situation, it is possible and can make a dramatic difference.

These workshops will provide background, discussions, and resources.

Although the focus is on responding to violence against women, the information and techniques gained are useful in dealing with other difficult issues.

Since April of 2010, the CPVAW has scheduled seven workshops. The following three pages provide an overview of this workshop.

This program is based on work by Joan Tabachnick, an expert on bystander involvement and author of the book *Engaging Bystanders in Sexual Violence Prevention*. To order a free copy of the book, visit the following website: [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org) or call 1-877-739-3895.





## Workshop Goals

Gather as Allies

Learn Techniques

Respond Effectively

Discover Resources



- The workshop facilitators share published real-life stories of sexual assault or domestic violence, and participants consider how these terrible events happen and how to respond effectively.



## How could this happen?

A 1964 Case in New York City

A 2009 Case in Richmond, CA

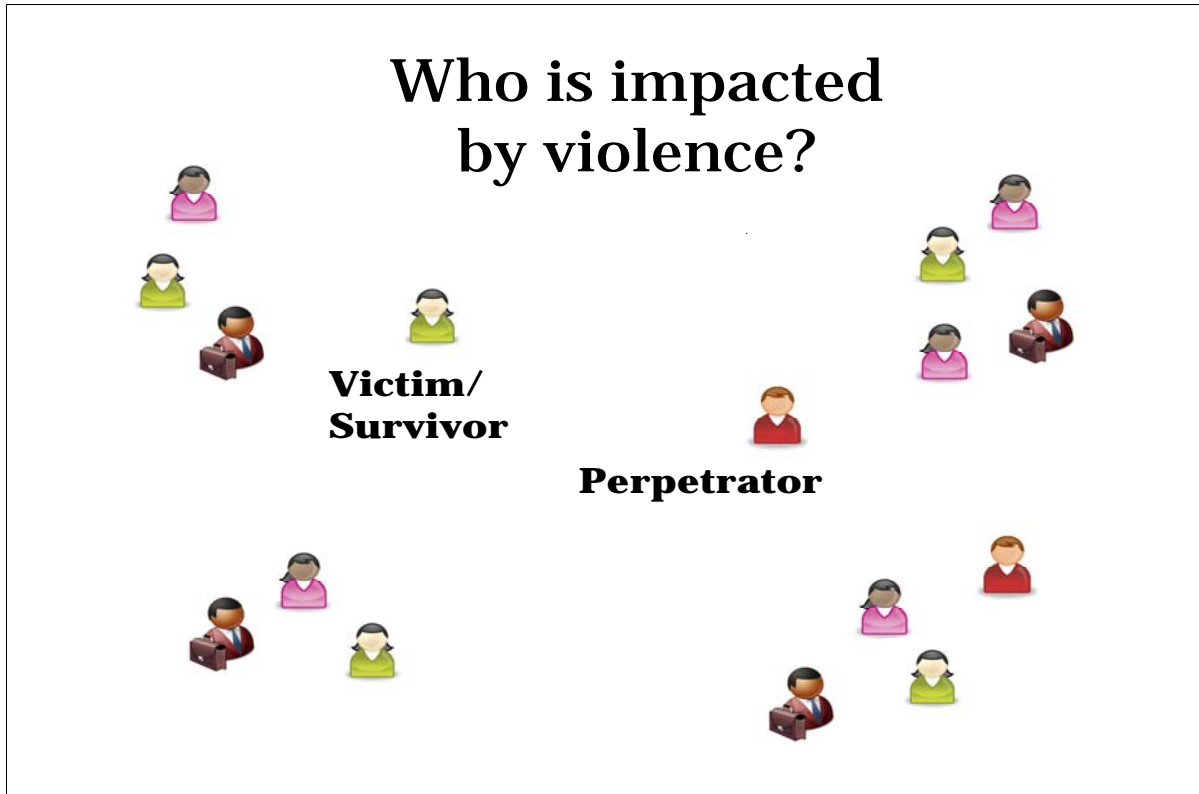
## How did a bystander respond?

A 2005 Case in Plymouth, MA

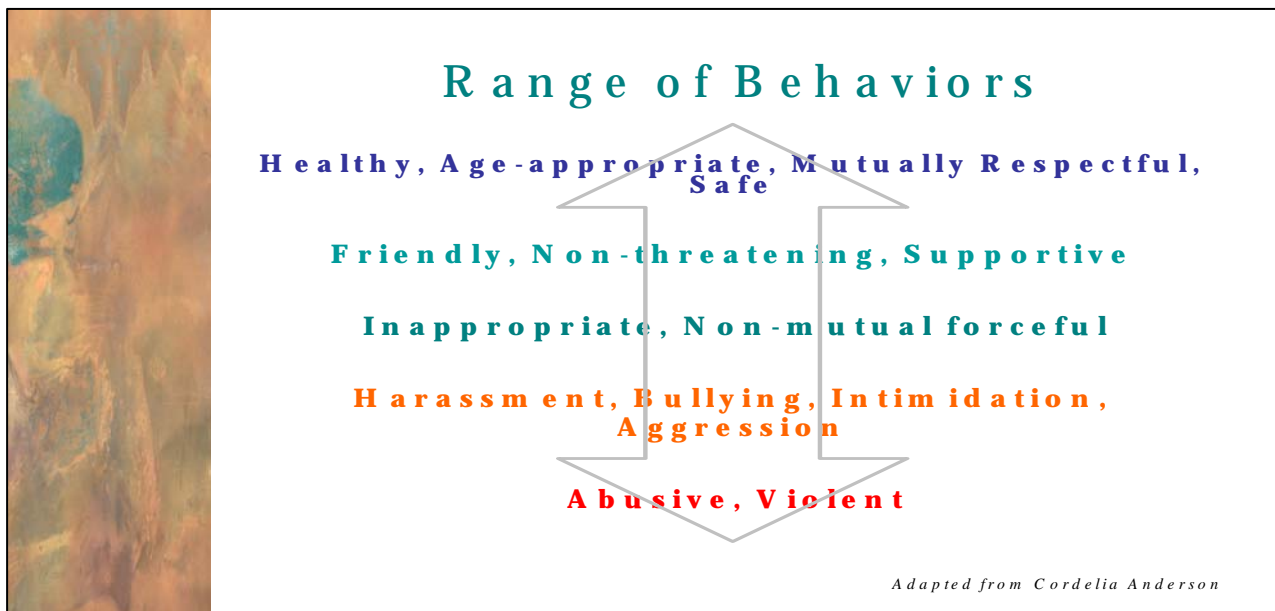
A 2009 Case in Marina, CA



- The workshop participants consider who is impacted by violence.



- Behaviors are also considered in order to better evaluate situations and the possibilities of responding before things worsen.



- Workshop participants consider what sequence of awareness and/or decisions happen in responding to a situation.



## Responding To A Situation

- What did I see or hear that concerns me?
- How does the situation affect me or someone else?
- Do I need to respond?
- What are my options? What are the risks if I act?
- How can I take action? Are there any other resources I need?

- It is important that participants have information regarding choices and resources after the workshops.



## Take Home Points

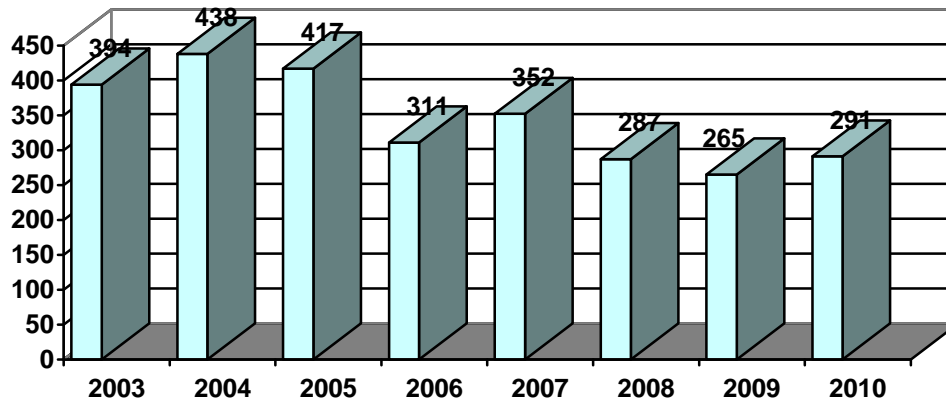
- You have a role to play in preventing violence.
- There are many opportunities to make a difference in small ways in all kinds of situations.
- When you notice something, there are many ways to respond, including speaking up or taking action. There is not just one “right” way.
- Always consider the consequences; if there is immediate danger, call 9-1-1. Take care of yourself.

# SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICAL DATA

## *Statistical Data*

This is one way for the community, law enforcement, and service agencies to look at incidents and reported crimes to determine the best method to advocate, respond, and/or educate. The following graphs represent data for statistics that show the number of cases of sexual assault and domestic violence within the City; however, they do not reflect the number of actual victims of these crimes. It is also important to keep in mind that many cases of sexual assault and domestic violence go unreported.

***Domestic Violence*** (Includes data gathered by the SCPD for the CPVAW on local calls)



2003 Population – 55,610

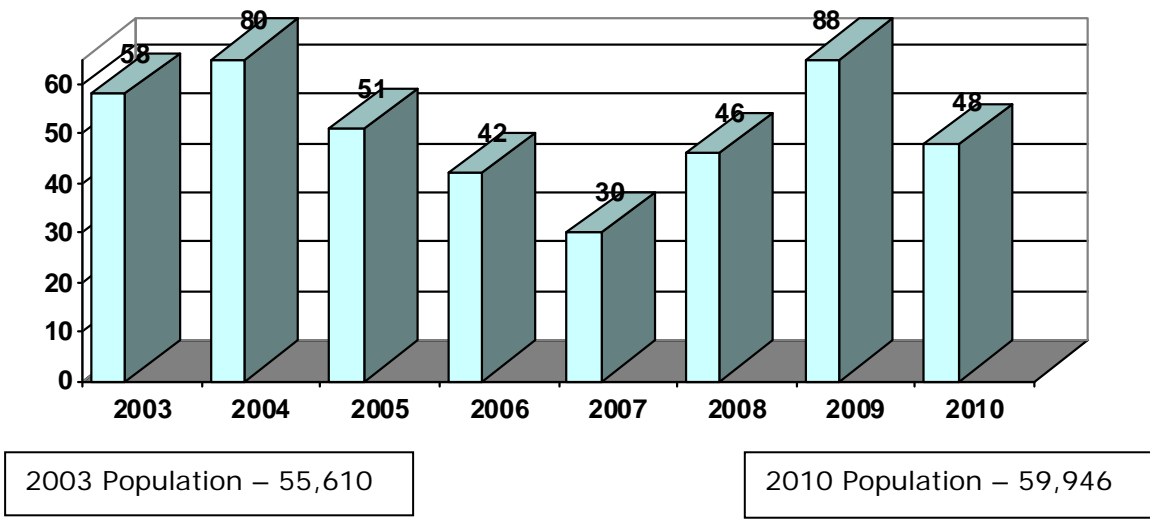
2010 Population – 59,946

The graph above lists domestic violence calls, but this does not include the three deaths in the City of Santa Cruz involving domestic violence in 2010.

In January of 2010, Nichole Schrock was murdered at work by a former boyfriend who then killed himself.

In July of 2010, Juli Entwistle was killed by her boyfriend who was arrested.

**Sexual Assault** (Includes all sexual assault penal codes, including rape, attempted rape, and sexual battery)



The sexual assault data above indicates that reported incidents of sexual assaults were on a downward trend, but in the last three years there has been an increase in reports, particularly in 2009 in the area of sexual battery.

The *Joint Report on Sexual Assault*, presented by the CPVAW and the SCPD every three years, is in the final stages of development and will be presented to the City Council before the end of the calendar year.

The CPVAW reviews trends, and, in collaboration with local agencies, will continue to provide events, projects, and campaigns to educate and raise awareness. Programs are also developed, particularly in the area of prevention.

## PAST RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE

As part of past annual reports to the City Council, the CPVAW has presented numerous recommendations that have been completed. Of the many recommendations that have been brought before the City Council, there are three items that continue to be addressed by the CPVAW:

- The CPVAW has yet to confirm a process with the County District Attorney's Office to track the disposition of cases. Although this item has been ongoing since 2006, numerous issues have delayed implementation, including reduction of staff time. Plans at this point may include a meeting with the Presiding Judge, District Attorney's Office, and SCPD to discuss ways to develop the best process of tracking the status of sexual assault cases.

- The CPVAW will continue to meet with staff of the SCPD Investigative Division with the goal to involve the District Attorney's Office and other agencies to seek successful arrest and prosecution.
- The CPVAW will continue to reach out to members of the City Council's Public Safety Committee on the above items and other issues as needed.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

The CPVAW is pleased at the many partnerships that have been forged in recent years to raise awareness, provide education, and build community collaborations to address the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The CPVAW appreciates the more than forty businesses and agencies that are partners in the Safe Place Network Program for more than five years.

The CPVAW has responded to many requests from various community groups, such as the Port District, Girl Scouts, and senior housing complexes, to provide information, self-defense demonstrations, and materials.

The CPVAW is proud of the excellent partnership that has been built with Santa Cruz City Schools with the safety skills/self-defense classes. We look forward to finding additional ways to work with the schools in effective ways.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April brought the opportunity to work again with Women's Crisis Support – Defensa de Mujeres on its premier of Walk a Mile in her Shoes, a motivating and effective fundraising event.

Our continued collaboration with Walnut Avenue Women's Center has improved the various events and programs that have been offered. Unity Day in October continues to be a successful outreach program to our community regarding domestic violence.

Plans continue to build strong collaborations with the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) departments and programs, such as the Women's Center, Student Health Outreach Program (SHOP), Sexual Health Educator/Sexual Assault Facts and Education (SAFE) Program, Student Housing and Services, Graduate Students Governance Board, and College 9/10. These plans include partnering on events and programs.

The CPVAW also continues to work with the SCPD. Information regarding the CPVAW's history, programs, and events is provided each year during annual trainings of SCPD staff. The CPVAW staff and Commissioners are

invited to specific SCPD trainings focused on sexual assault and domestic violence. Community postings continue to be an effective way to inform the local residents in areas affected by sexual assaults. The CPVAW is looking to support and work with the SCPD in its Santa Cruz P.R.I.D.E. (Personally Responsible Individual Development in Ethics) Program.

## **PROPOSED FUTURE PROGRAMS**

To continue, and increase, the work to prevent violence against women in our community, the CPVAW is working toward the following goals for the future:

- Present the *Joint Report on Sexual Assault* to the City Council in partnership with the SCPD.
- Build a stronger partnership with UCSC involving SHOP, SAFE, the Women's Center, and Student Housing and Services.
- Expand the Safe Place Network Program to other local bars. This was a goal from last year, and it is hoped that this will begin this next year.
- Schedule another tree dedication in recognition of the unusually high number of deaths due to domestic violence in the community in recent years.
- Work on plans to incorporate the recognition of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CPVAW into the Annual Public Hearing in the fall, which may include a stakeholders' meeting and an awards ceremony.
- Schedule an annual Take Back Our Streets walk to bring the community together under the light of the full moon. Along with nature's light, and walking with our lights through various areas of our streets, we hope to shed light on the issue of violence in our community with an annual event.

## **CONCLUSION**

Although there are no recommendations for the City Council to take action on at this time, the CPVAW wants to express its appreciation for the City Council's actions and support during the past thirty years.