

History of the Commission For The Prevention Of Violence Against Women: 1981

By formal action by SC City Council via Ordinance 81-, the Commission was approved.

1982

First meeting: January 14.

- Created direct liaison with the District Attorneys office and the SCPD.
- Participated in the hiring process for the new Police Chief.
- Created and distributed a bilingual Women's Resource Card.

1983

- A letter from the Police Chief was written in a friendly voice. This suggested promise for a healthy relationship with the SCPD.
- Emphasis was placed on developing a Self-Defense program.

1984

- The SCPD started to become our ally.
- Monitored existing crisis support hot-lines with the support of the SCPD.
- Focused on hearing the needs and concerns of the community.

1985

- Participated in "ride-alongs".
- Gillian Greensite provided a review of the 1983-1984 sexual assault cases. She found many areas of concern. As a result, an "officers Checklist" was developed for handling sexual assault, and the commission started to review sexual assault cases.
- A Sexual Assault Response Team was developed in Santa Cruz.

1986

- Focused on long-term planning.
- Searched for ways to become proactive verses reactive.
- Noticed progress in Police training and responsiveness to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

1987

- Focused on implementing the goals and objectives of the Commission.
- Re-evaluated and updated the "Investigation of Sexual Assault Officer's Checklist" and the "Survivor Feedback Form".

1988

- Focused on education and outreach to the community.
- Presented a film and video series.
- Created a general brochure about the services and programs of the Commission.
- Police followed a new procedure that enabled survivors of domestic violence to obtain a Emergency Protective Order at the scene.

1989-90

- Created a report about the earthquake and its impact on violence against women.

- Increased self defense media coverage.
- Participated in a community effort to improve services for Latina survivors of domestic violence.
- Participated in police hiring oral boards.

1990-1991

- Participated in a documentary about violence against women and war.
- Increased awareness about violence against women and homophobia.
 - Taught a self defense class in Spanish for the first time.
 - Focused on International networking.
- All female officers participated in SART training.

1991-1992

- 10 year celebration at Loudon Nelson.
- Film and book donations to the SC Library.
- CO-Sponsored Take Back The Night: 300 people in attendance.
 - Attended NCASA conference

1992-1993

- Cross-gender police searches were limited to weapon searches only.
 - Started outreach to women at Blaine St. Jail.
- "Creating Cycles Of Respect", 125 women participated in teen women's day.
 - Created a self defense class for mentally ill women.
 - 556 women participated in the self defense program this year.
- CO-sponsored "International Women's History Day", and "The Art Of Healing" art show.

1993-1994

- CPVAW coordinator trained the SCPD in Domestic Violence Awareness.
 - Parks and Recreation formed a Women's Safety Committee.
 - 503 women participated in the self defense program this year.
 - Presented "Creating Cycles Of Respect" teen women's day.
- Members of the Santa Cruz Criminal Defense Bar were trained to be sensitive to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. The CPVAW coordinator helped perform the training.

1994-1995

- "Creating Cycles Of Respect", 250 women participated in teen Women's day.
- "Promised...Secrets...Silence...Raising Voices Against Domestic Violence", 100 people in attendance.
 - CPVAW open house. Despite rain, more than 250 people attended.
 - Created "Women's power hour" for homeless women.

1995-1996

- Purple ribbon campaign was created.
- Memorial for Nina Leibman. 200 people gathered at the clock tower.
- CO-sponsored a meeting regarding rape in the Seabright Neighborhood. 75 people attended.
- O.J. Simpson acquittal sparked an increased need for domestic violence education.

1996-1997

- Cycles Of Respect Coordinator Program was created. It was funded by the City Council.
 - 15 year anniversary for the commission.
- Created a bilingual domestic violence restraining order brochure.
 - Awarded 3 police officers for exemplary service.
- Placed an ad in the newspaper for information about the Seabright prowlings and rapes.
- Responded to the rapes of 3 elderly women in the community with media coverage, teach-ins, and free help installing safety equipment.

1997-1998

- Started "Hands Are Not For Hitting". Developed the bus placard. Total grant was for 225,000. The CPVAW received 49,000.
- The "Cycles Of Respect Coordinator Project" received full funding from the Santa Cruz Board of Education.
- Started the Latina Self-Defense presenter training project in collaboration with KIDPOWER.

1998-1999

- The "Hands Are Not For Hitting" grant ended, but a re-application granted an additional year of funding.
 - Created statistical evaluation for the entire history of the Self-Defense program.
 - Improved the pre and post self defense evaluation form.
- All female students at Branciforte Jr.High School participated in a one week self defense class during P.E.
 - Sponsored Take Back The Night. More than 150 people attended.

1999-2000

Santa Cruz City Schools and CPVAW develop
Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention support groups for students

Community TV and Commission develop video for education about how prevalent domestic violence and sexual assault is in City of Santa Cruz; includes resources, and tips for being supportive

Men's Group organizes to create and plan *Teen Men's Day* sponsored by Commission

CPVAW sponsor Harbor High School student video project about dating, coercion and "no means no"

Santa Cruz City Council increases seed grant funding for CPVAW, which in turn allows Commission to expand support for empowerment programs, ranging from *She Rocks* for young women to expanding workshops for legal advocates

2000-2001

CPVAW sponsors first *Teen Men's Day*

Teen Women's Day is evaluated and redesigned to actively embrace Teen Women themselves in future planning

Commission for the Prevention of Violence
Against Women celebrates its *20th Anniversary*.

2001-2002

CPVAW becomes a Sponsor of the She Rocks! Program

Top priority becomes education and teens/adolescents

CPVAW tabled and marched at International Peace Day and Gay Pride

2002-2003

CPVAW priorities become self defense and teen violence prevention

Creating Cycles of Respect Sub Committee is created

Communication with CalPERS regarding investments in software company Take 3, who
produces violent video games, begins

2003-2004

The first Denim Day in Santa Cruz

Safe Place Network and Public Education Subcommittees are formed

Girl's and Boy's self defense skills classes begin in Branciforte and Mission Hill Middle School
in collaboration with Kidpower

2004-2005

Safe Place Network is re-established

Coasters developed and distributed to local bars as a form of public education

Banners are created and displayed for April (Sexual Assault Awareness Month) and October
(Domestic Violence Prevention Month)

2005-2006

Sexual Assault postings developed

A tree is dedicated at Harvey West Park to honor survivors of Domestic Violence

Report on Rape and Sexual Assault presented to Santa Cruz City Council

Personal Safety week is held at Branciforte Middle School in collaboration with Kidpower

Joint City Committee on Sexual Assault is created

2006-2007

The Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women celebrates it's 25th Anniversary

Information provided to County Women's Commission regarding status of Women and Girls Report.

Joint Committee on Sexual Assault sunset in December 2006, recommendations made to council May 2007.

Standing committees are restructured.

Take Back the Night event held in conjunction with UCSC students.

Letter campaign to *America's Next Top Model* television show occurs.

Stakeholder meeting held.

CPVAW provide written support for funding of the Violence Against Women Act.

CPVAW respond to Grand Jury.

2007-2008

Self-defense in city schools for girls and boys scheduled in PE classes.

City's sexual harassment training reviewed by CPVAW, members of City Council and Human Resources.

Learning outcomes and evaluation of schools' Self-defense programs developed.

Annual Report for 2005, 2006 and 2007 presented to City Council.

Standing Committees (except for Police Committee) dissolved in favor of ad hoc committees.

Editorial written to *Santa Cruz Sentinel* regarding the importance of harassment training.

Vision, mission and purpose statements revised.

Strategic objectives/goals for 2008-2010 adopted.

CPVAW provides funding for service agencies' grant requests.

Annual public hearing held in February 2008.