



Dear Mayor Keeley and Councilmembers:

This report outlines a summary of key accomplishments and a more detailed narrative report of the efforts in 2022 of the Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women (CPVAW) of the City of Santa Cruz.

Summary of Key Accomplishments

- Scheduled eight (8) meetings to discuss priorities.
- Advanced the mission by collaborating with local stakeholders and law enforcement to ensure best practices to respond to and prosecute violent crimes against women.
- Hosted a three-day event from October 18-20 to mark Domestic Violence Awareness Month by engaging the City of Santa Cruz in a film, sign-making, speakers, poets, and music to inform the public of the many levels of violence prevention and connecting community resources to the public.
- Created different themed Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that are shared across various networks to bring awareness of the issues and open dialogue in our community around healthy and positive sex education, the importance of reporting sexual assault, the devastating harm of intimate partner violence, and how to access support.

Narrative Report

In 2022, CPVAW had seven (7) members appointed by the City Council. Those Commissioners included Chair Dena Loijos, Vice Chair Danielle Long, Commissioner Ann Simonton, Karen Madura, Rachel Kippen, Brandon Bollinger, and Krissie Olsen. CPVAW met via Zoom on January 13, 2022, March 2, 2022, May 4, 2022, June 29, 2022, August 3, 2022, September 7, 2022, and November 2, 2022. Additionally, the members convened for a Special Meeting on May 7, 2022, to discuss projects, goals, and work plan with the facilitator, Nicole Lezin, of Cole Communications.

The mission of CPVAW is to collaborate with local stakeholder partners and law enforcement to ensure best practices to respond to and prosecute violent crimes against women. Therefore, this year, CPVAW prioritized collaborating with various stakeholders, new community groups, organizations, and community leaders, as well as increasing visibility through social media and CPVAW's website to serve as a resource and hub for community members. These collaborations and focus on increased visibility were prioritized with a collective vision in mind: to prevent sexual assault, sexual harassment, and intimate partner violence in the City of Santa Cruz.

A significant event that brought together the community after several years of the pandemic making it difficult to convene in person was the events held during Domestic Violence Awareness Month on October 18-20. The series of events started with a premiere screening at the Del Mar Theatre Landmark of the powerful documentary titled "My name is Andrea," which

sets out to show the life of feminist activist, scholar, and public figure Andrea Dworkin, the impacts of patriarchy and discrimination that women face, and the important collective work in combating those social and cultural oppressive forces. Dworkin's work drew connections between racism, classism, and sexual assault. There was a compelling discussion amongst those in attendance, a statement from CPVAW, and Mayoral Declaration from former Mayor Brunner. There were over 125 community members present and tabling with resources from Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center and Monarch Services.

A sign-making event was held at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History (MAH) following the documentary screening. Space was available for community members to come together, make signs supporting sexual violence, and hold space to collectively dream and share ideas about a world and community free of rape, sexual harassment, and femicide. Community members across Santa Cruz, staff at the MAH, CPVAW Commissioners, and members of the UCSC's The Womxn's Center were in attendance.

Finally, CPVAW hosted a rally and a march to close out the three-day event during Domestic Violence Awareness Month at Santa Cruz County Courthouse. It was the first community event since the pandemic to mark 41 years of CPVAW. There was a fantastic lineup of speakers, including members of the community, jazz singer Tammi Brown, UCSC Professor Emeritus Donna Haraway, UCSC American Indian Resource Center Director Angel Riotutar, UCSC Cantu Queer Center Director Delfin W. Bautista, authors, poets, community activists, and City Councilmember Kalantari-Johnson. Music was led by the choral group Yalalati directed by Heather Houston. Despite the cold weather, CPVAW marched collectively, recorded the event, and posted it on YouTube for members who could not participate and view it at their convenience. One speaker Bhavananda Lodkey wrote about her experience speaking, and the history of the CPVAW poster "Imagine a Violence-Free World" was documented in the newspaper *The Network* in the issue Feb/March 2023.

Moreover, CPVAW worked to increase public information surrounding current trends in the prevention of sexual violence by distributing educational and preventative messages that were printed on coasters and posters and distributed across the City at frequented bars and restaurants, as well as collaborating with Gadgetbox to produce three (3) 20-second spots that highlighted:

1. How harm and abuse start with jealousy and control;
2. How Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) can quickly escalate into physical violence over simple things like eating dinner;
3. How IPV can alter the lives of children who witness violence in the home and how threats can lead to murder.

Two (2) other one-minute PSAs were created. The first was coordinated with SANE, which trains all the local nurses, and offers a comprehensive, free medical exam at no cost for anyone sexually assaulted. The spot encourages victims to reach out and report with or without the involvement of police or having to report. The second featured a father and son talking about sex and the many resources online that share scripts, so parents don't have to reinvent the wheel. Their job is to become a trusted ally above all, and if they find violent porn that their child has

watched, do not panic, never shame or blame the child and talk about it only when you are both ready and willing.

Despite the many challenges of the pandemic, the backsliding of years of progress through the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, and the continued increase of domestic violence that the community faced during the pandemic, CPVAW is proud to serve the Santa Cruz community and City Council by continuing to work towards its collective vision in ending sexual assault, sexual harassment, and domestic violence through prevention, educational programs, and public policy. Other priorities include:

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

CPVAW would like to thank the City of Santa Cruz and the City Council for their support and continued prioritization of working to prevent sexual violence in the community.

Sincerely,

Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women:

Chair Danielle Long

Vice Chair Ann Simonton

Commissioner Anissa Novak

Commissioner Brandon Bollinger

Commissioner Gabriela Trigueiro

Commissioner Ilene Feinman

Commissioner Karen Madura