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ICYMI: City Attorney Zach Klein Brings Together Community Partners to Shine Light on Domestic Violence in Central Ohio

City and County officials, law enforcement, advocates, and survivors gather at City Hall to honor those lost and recommit to action against violence

COLUMBUS, OH—This week, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein hosted a [City Hall illumination ceremony](#) alongside the Mayor's Office of Violence Prevention and Ohio Women Against Domestic Violence in observance of October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The lighting ceremony and candlelight vigil brought together city, county and faith leaders, law enforcement, advocates, and survivors on the steps of Columbus City Hall in a powerful display of solidarity and commitment to raising awareness and breaking cycles of violence.

"Domestic violence is the most serious crime we prosecute at the City Attorney's Office. We take these cases seriously, and have an incredible, dedicated team of prosecutors and advocates who go to work each day to hold offenders accountable and ensure survivors have the support they need at every step," said **Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein**.

"I also want to thank the police, advocates, and social service agencies, as well as the family members and friends who are making a difference to break the cycle of violence and save lives."

Each year, the City Attorney's Office Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit handles thousands of cases. Specially trained advocates assigned to each case walk survivors through every step of the legal process, connect them with social services, and work alongside dedicated prosecutors to hold offenders accountable.

"While this month is about raising awareness, it's also about raising our voices. It's about saying that silence is no longer an option, and that pain hidden behind closed doors deserves to be seen, heard, and healed," said **Ohio Women Against Domestic Violence President Diana Williams**.

The City Attorney's Office also recently worked with The Center for Family Safety and Healing at Nationwide Children's Hospital and the Battered Women's Justice Project to develop a [Community Perception Survey](#) to solicit feedback on current initiatives and resources, which will help partner organizations identify trends at the neighborhood

level, help shape domestic violence programming and communication plans, and facilitate guides for community conversations on partner violence.

Individuals can [access the survey via direct link](#), on QR codes on flyers displayed in various public locations across the city, and via social media.

“Domestic violence is a public crisis. It’s not just a private matter. It affects individuals, communities and families,” **Rena Shak, Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of Violence Prevention** said at the event. “No matter what changes are going on in this world, the dedication to domestic violence resourcing and work in the City of Columbus remains the same. We stand with you, we support you, we are here for you, and most importantly, we believe you.”

For more information on the Columbus City Attorney’s Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit, visit www.city-attorney.columbus.gov or call 614-645-6232.

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