

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tuesday, July 15, 2025 Contact: Pete Shipley, 614.965.0203

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City Partners with Nonprofits to Solicit Feedback on Ways to Improve Anti-Domestic Violence Efforts at the Neighborhood Level

Partners launch Community Perceptions Survey to gather data and inform next steps in fight to break cycles of violence, support survivors, and hold offenders accountable

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced that the City has joined forces with several area nonprofits to launch an anti-domestic violence initiative to identify community safety concerns and better connect people to various services available across the city.

In order to better equip individuals with the tools they need to break the cycle of violence and hold offenders accountable, the City Attorney's Office worked alongside 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 and social media toolkit, which launch today, Tuesday, July 15.

"Domestic violence is the most serious crime we prosecute and it has our utmost attention. We are always looking for ways to improve responses and better serve those who need help at the most vulnerable time of their lives. This initiative will help inform our work to support victims and hold violent offenders accountable," said **Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein.**

The survey is translated into six languages and available online. Community respondents who take the survey will be invited to provide 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 <u>access the survey via direct link</u>, QR codes on flyers that are currently being distributed to be displayed in various public locations across the city, and via social media links.

Other supporters and promoters of the community-based survey include County Prosecutor Shayla Favor, the Mayor's Office of Violence Prevention, and the Columbus Division of Police.

Here is what other community leaders are saying about the survey launch:

"Domestic violence is at crisis levels and impacts not only the person experiencing abuse, but their children, family, friends, and employers. A community response is necessary to strengthen the safety network for survivors. Listening to them is the key to making sure our network is responsive to their needs and concerns."

Melissa Kay Graves, MPA, President, The Center for Family Safety and Healing at Nationwide Children's Hospital

"Over the past several years, our officers have received enhanced training to better respond to domestic violence situations with empathy, safety, and accountability at the forefront. We recognize that addressing domestic violence requires ongoing collaboration and community trust. This initiative is a critical opportunity to listen, learn, and grow. We're proud to partner with city leaders and community partners to better understand how we can continue to improve our response and support for survivors."

Elaine Bryant, Chief, Columbus Division of Police

"The Mayor's Office of Violence Prevention has a comprehensive strategy for reducing the threat and occurrences of domestic violence across the city focused on prevention, intervention, and research. We're excited to support something that will allow us to stand alongside these community partners and truly listen to the community to inform our work and make effective change in the domestic violence space."

Rena Shak, Director, City of Columbus Office of Violence Prevention.

*Editor's note: English versions of the graphics and flyers are attached. Versions in other languages are also available.