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City Attorney Klein Joins Global Business Leaders for Conversation about Domestic Violence and Coronavirus

COLUMBUS - Today, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein participated in a virtual seminar with international business leaders to discuss how they can empower employees who may be experiencing domestic violence during the coronavirus pandemic.

“The surge we’re seeing in domestic violence isn’t a problem unique to our community. It’s a worldwide consequence of this pandemic,” said Klein. “I applaud the global leaders who came together today out of deep concern for the health and safety of their employees. It’s my hope that by empowering domestic violence victims across the globe, we can remind them that there is help and hope still available.”

The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres recently [released a statement](#) calling for measures to address a “horrifying global surge” of domestic violence. Across the nation, visits to domestic violence websites [are up](#). And, in Columbus, there have been 297 domestic violence arrests since the state’s stay-at-home order started on March 23.

Hosted by the global business consultants at Fontheim International, the panel featured Klein; Cindy Dyer and Jenny Smith, vice presidents at the women’s NGO founded by Hillary Clinton and Madeleine Albright, Vital Voices Global Partnership; and Emily Crain, Director at Fontheim and expert on countering gender-based violence. The speakers discussed how business leaders can protect women and connect their employees to community resources, including shelters, counseling and more.

Klein highlighted his work on the front lines protecting victims of domestic violence, including his office’s ongoing advocacy and the new text message service he implemented to connect victims and their families to resources while quarantined with their abusers. Columbus residents can be connected to victim advocates by texting 614-653-8075.

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