

5. The scope of outreach efforts by the Department to victims of domestic violence in cases where a perpetrator violates an order of protection issued by a court of competent jurisdiction;

In accordance with Section 6, the Department is dedicated to supporting victims of domestic violence, even in situations where the offender has violated a protection order. The primary focus of the Domestic Violence Prevention Officers (DVPO) is to prioritize victims who have experienced violence or protection order breaches. These officers are trained to provide a range of services, including counseling, referrals to shelters, and assistance with navigating the court system. The aim is to ensure that victims receive the necessary support and resources to help them through challenging circumstances.

6. Any other interventions by the Department that relate to domestic violence.

The Department employs Domestic Violence Prevention Officers (DVPOs), who are police officers/detectives with specialized training in supporting victims of domestic violence. DVPOs have a wide range of responsibilities, with one of their primary objectives being to work with victims on their own terms, offering support and assistance as needed.

DVPOs conduct home visits to assess the physical and emotional well-being of domestic violence victims. During these visits, they evaluate whether the perpetrator has had any contact with the victim, assist in creating personal safety plans, provide access to counseling services and shelter referrals, and offer assistance with court referrals. The goal of DVPOs is to provide a comprehensive range of services that support victims of domestic violence and enhance their overall well-being.

DVPOs are actively involved in extensive community outreach endeavors, ensuring that individuals are well-informed about the available services, even in cases where police intervention might not be required. This outreach includes disseminating vital information regarding safety planning, providing guidance and assistance to individuals who are being stalked, and offering resources specifically tailored for teenagers experiencing partner violence. Furthermore, DVPOs play a crucial role in encouraging individuals to report incidents of domestic violence and shine a light on this crime, promoting a safer and more supportive environment for all.

The Department also oversees the High Propensity and Child at Risk Program, which focuses on closely monitoring individuals who have violated orders of protection, engaged in multiple domestic violence incidents, or perpetrated particularly violent acts. Under this program, victims enrolled are provided with dedicated support and protection. A DVPO conducts a minimum of two visits within a 28-day timeframe to ensure the safety and well-being of these victims. This proactive approach aims to safeguard the welfare of those at higher risk and hold offenders accountable for their actions.

The Department facilitates the Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAP), managed by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice in collaboration with Safe Horizon, the nation's largest victim services agency. CVAP employs victim advocates from Safe Horizon who work closely with personnel in every precinct and police service area. These advocates undergo specialized training in domestic violence and victimization to address the trauma associated with crime, especially in cases of domestic violence. They assist victims in navigating the criminal justice system, provide emotional support, and offer referrals for necessary services. CVAP advocates also work to prevent repeat victimization and connect victims with community-based organizations for specialized care, including safe and affordable housing. The program aims to provide comprehensive support to victims of crime, particularly those affected by domestic violence, through collaborative efforts.

The Department has recently revamped its U-visa program and is actively collaborating with undocumented victims of domestic violence to provide them with certifications for U-visas. This allows victims to obtain legal status in the United States and provides them with critical protection against deportation.