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For Immediate Release

Contact: [Paul Levikow](#)
(619) 531-3536

DA Speaks to Rally Remembering Victims of Domestic Violence

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) spoke today to a group of about two hundred people gathered in San Diego's Old Town to remember victims of domestic violence who were killed by their intimate partners. The names of the victims were read aloud as part of a day of the "Never Forget" rally.

Text of DA Bonnie Dumanis' remarks:

Good afternoon. I am honored to be here today to help remember the victims of domestic violence who lost their lives—and make sure we never forget them. Domestic Violence continues to be one of the leading causes of injury to women in the U.S. During the time we spend together this afternoon, more than 2-thousand victims will be abused by their partners. And as we all know—that abuse can sometimes lead to murder. So far this year, our office has received about 475 domestic violence cases every month. The problem is clearly not going away—but unfortunately, some of the help for victims has.

Government funding for some 93 DV shelters across the state of California has been cut 20 percent. These shelters do very important work—helping domestic violence victims get back on their feet. Places like the Family Justice Center, the Center for Community Solutions, and the YWCA's Becky's House are so important.

The DA's office has four goals when it comes Domestic Violence: stop the violence, hold batterers accountable, make victims safer, and never let a victim die in vain. We have a team of 38 specially- trained prosecutors in our Family Protection Division. They work on domestic violence cases and handle them from start to finish. These prosecutors understand the cycle of Domestic Violence and how quickly it can escalate.

Our office believes that getting involved early, at the push, or shove stage, is the right thing to do...and can save lives. We believe today's misdemeanor is often tomorrow's murder case. Our office also has a team of Victim Advocates who contact domestic violence victims right after the abuse happens. We help provide emergency relocation, medical help, housing, referrals, counseling, court support, information regarding restraining orders, and help navigating the criminal justice system.

You have just heard the names of the victims lost to domestic violence this year. In a moment, you will hear more names read aloud. Today, we honor all of those “silent witnesses.” Hearing their names reminds the public—and those of us in law enforcement—that there is more work to be done. Our office, along with some very dedicated people in San Diego County are doing everything we can to make that list shorter—and I thank you for your help.

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