



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

October 10, 2008

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES LAUNCHES CELL PHONE  
COLLECTION DRIVE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS**

*October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month*

Los Angeles – Members of the Los Angeles City Council today launched Domestic Violence Awareness Month by announcing the city's participation in HopeLine, Verizon Wireless's cell phone collection program to help victims of domestic violence. They also joined members of the Domestic Violence Task Force as it released a new report on teen dating violence.

"It is truly tragic when people must fear for their safety in their own homes. The only way to break the cycle of domestic violence is to educate everyone -- families, law enforcement officers, policy makers – to recognize and know how to provide assistance to victims. With studies showing that one in every five teen relationships are abusive, we need to start that education process early," said Council President Garcetti.

"Through this campaign, victims have an opportunity to prevent the cycle of domestic violence. Sometimes a single phone call can make the difference in preventing domestic violence and this effort recognizes the significance of asking for help," said Councilmember Ed Reyes.

"We all need to take responsibility to help bring about change and keep our friends and family safe from domestic violence," said Councilmember Wendy Greuel. "The effects of abuse are devastating and far reaching and we need to bring additional coverage to this issue because domestic violence speaks every language, has many colors and lives in every community."

"When we recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we need to remember that domestic violence does not discriminate. It affects people from all walks of life including both men and women. Every individual needs to commit to preventing the destructive cycle of abuse brought on by domestic violence for the good of our society and the health of future generations," said Councilmember Dennis P. Zine.

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“This is an easy way to support such an important cause. Domestic violence traumatizes families generation after generation. It's important that we do everything we can to help the people who are trying to bring the violence to an end,” said Councilmember Tom LaBonge.

“Abuse survivors need to know their calls for help will be answered. Domestic Abuse Response Teams provide an immediate response in the midst of a crisis and reassure victims that they are not alone. Verizon's Hopeline phones provide another way to reach out and get help, and I encourage anyone who is experiencing violence at home to make that call,” said Councilmember Jack Weiss.

“During these tough economic times, it's crucial that we recognize that domestic violence often comes as a result of stress related to financial issues,” said Councilmember Alarcón. “Domestic Violence Awareness Month is an opportunity to increase outreach and education so we can reduce domestic violence during this time when so many families are under increased pressure because of the failing economy.”

“The City of LA and the State of California have been leaders in addressing domestic violence throughout the nation. They were the first to create domestic violence task forces, vertical prosecution and stronger laws to protect the victims. They have also been a leader in creating funding for domestic violence shelters for the victims and their families. Domestic violence is one of the most serious crimes as it escalates in its seriousness and it victimizes the persons that are in closest proximity to the suspect, generally a family member,” said Councilmember Bernard Parks.

“This is an example of a productive public/private partnership between the City and Verizon Wireless and I appreciate Verizon stepping up to the plate to help combat the grave issue of domestic violence. In fact, on average more than three women are murdered by an intimate partner in the United States everyday. Domestic violence is serious and the only way it can be stopped is through education and outreach efforts and this partnership raises the capital to support organizations across the country that do the important prevention and intervention work,” said Councilmember Jan Perry.

“Dr. Marjorie Braude, wife of late Councilmember Marvin Braude, founded the City's Domestic Violence Task Force with the vision of developing greater coordination within the justice system in order to address the needs of victims of domestic violence. Since then, we have come a long way to provide support for victims and recognizing this epidemic does not discriminate between male and female, or sexual orientation. We must continue to educate the public and enforce our laws so we can end the cycle of violence hidden behind closed doors,” said Councilmember Bill Rosendahl.

"I hope we can use Domestic Violence Awareness Month to have a very frank

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discussion about this ugly and completely unacceptable evil that plagues all sectors of society," said Councilmember José Huizar.

"The Task Force is concerned that many in our society do not realize that domestic violence is a reality for teenagers as well as adults. This event is an opportunity to let teens talk to us about that reality. It is our goal to raise awareness of teen dating violence, and what can be done to be supportive of victims, as well as finding tools for prevention," said Carol Tantau, Chair of the City of Los Angeles's Domestic Violence Task Force.

From October 10 through November 10, local residents and city employees may bring their used wireless phones and accessories to designated City offices, including City Hall and City Council District Offices across the city. Phones will be refurbished and sold with the proceeds donated to benefit local shelters and non-profit organizations that focus on domestic violence prevention and awareness. Phones are also donated to organizations that provide assistance to domestic violence victims. All wireless phones may be donated to the HopeLine program, regardless of carrier.

"Through our HopeLine program, we collect no-longer-used phones and accessories and recycle or refurbish and resell them, with the proceeds used to award grants of cash, phones and free airtime to domestic violence agencies. This also helps the environment by keeping wireless phones and their batteries, along with their accessories, out of local landfills," said John Palmer, president of the Southern California Region of Verizon Wireless.

Verizon Wireless started the HopeLine program in 2001 and has collected more than 4 million phones nationwide. As a result, nearly \$4 million in cash grants has been awarded to domestic violence agencies and organizations, and more than 40,000 phones with airtime and other features have been distributed to be used by victims of domestic violence.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The City of Los Angeles Domestic Violence Task Force's report released today reviews trends in teen dating violence and offers recommendations to improve Los Angeles's ability to prevent this abuse and to assist victims. The full report is available online at <http://www.lacity.org/CDD/>.

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## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH VERIZON WIRELESS HOPELINE USED CELL PHONE COLLECTION BOX LOCATIONS**

### **Central Los Angeles**

City Hall (all City Council offices)  
200 N. Spring Street  
Downtown Los Angeles

Office of Council President Eric Garcetti  
5500 Hollywood Blvd. (at Western)  
Hollywood

Office of Councilmember Tom LaBonge  
6501 Fountain Ave.  
Hollywood

Office of Councilmember Herb Wesson  
1819 S. Western Ave.  
Koreatown

### **East Los Angeles**

Office of Councilmember Jose Huizar  
4927 E. Huntington Drive North, Suite 100  
El Sereno

### **Northeast Los Angeles**

Office of Councilmember Jose Huizar  
2035 Colorado Blvd.  
Eagle Rock  
Office of Council President Eric Garcetti  
3750 Verdugo Rd. (at Eagle Rock Blvd.)  
Glassell Park

Office of Councilmember Ed Reyes  
163 S. Avenue 24, Suite 202  
Lincoln Heights

### **San Fernando Valley**

Office of Councilmember Greig Smith  
10044 Old Depot Plaza Rd.  
Chatsworth

Office of Councilmember Wendy Greuel  
6350 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Suite 201  
North Hollywood

Office of Councilmember Greig Smith  
18917 Nordhoff Street, Suite 18  
Northridge

Office of Councilmember Richard Alarcon  
13630 Van Nuys Blvd.  
Pacoima, CA 91331

Office of Councilmember Dennis P. Zine  
19040 Vanowen Street  
Reseda, CA 91335

Office of Councilmember Richard Alarcon  
13517 Hubbard Street  
Sylmar, CA 91342

Office of City Councilmember Tom LaBonge  
10116 Riverside Drive, Room 200  
Toluca Lake

Office of City Councilmember Wendy Greuel  
7747 Foothill Blvd.  
Tujunga

**South Los Angeles**

Office of Councilmember Bernard Parks  
3847 S. Crenshaw Blvd.  
Crenshaw

Office of Councilmember Bernard Parks  
8475 S. Vermont Ave.  
South Los Angeles

Office of City Councilmember Jan Perry  
4703 S. Broadway Ave.  
South Los Angeles

**West Los Angeles**

Office of City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl  
7166 W. Manchester Blvd.  
Westchester

Office of City Councilmember Jack Weiss  
822 S. Robertson Blvd.  
West Los Angeles

Office of City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl  
1645 Corinth Ave., Room 201  
West Los Angeles