



AGENDA REPORT

TO: Jestin D. Johnson
City Administrator

FROM: Floyd Mitchell
Chief, OPD

Dr. Holly Joshi
Chief, DVP

SUBJECT: Report on City's Domestic Violence
Activities

DATE: November 4, 2025

City Administrator Approval


Jestin Johnson (Nov 13, 2025 11:14:13 PST)

Date: 11/13/2025

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Receive An Informational Report Of The City's Programs Responding To Domestic Violence.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is a joint response from the Oakland Police Department and Department of Violence Prevention to a request from Councilmember Charlene Wang regarding domestic violence in the city of Oakland. The responses below in the report are from each respective department.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Department of Violence Prevention:

The City of Oakland's Department of Violence Prevention (DVP) is charged with reducing gun violence, domestic violence, and commercial sexual exploitation in Oakland. To do this, the DVP invests in immediate crisis response services and near-term interventions that stabilize victims and prevent additional violence, as well as longer-term, intensive support services for individuals caught in cycles of violence. In service of these goals, the DVP performs three primary functions:

1. **Supervise and deploy a team of direct service staff** who perform intensive life coaching and violence interruption work with individuals at highest risk of imminent group and gender-based violence.
2. **Fund and coordinate community organizations** to deliver a range of community violence intervention services to individuals at the center of violence.

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3. **Build capacity among the ecosystem of community violence intervention workers** in Oakland to enhance our collective capacity to prevent violence and deliver effective and coordinated services.

Measure NN

On November 5, 2024, Oakland voters passed Measure NN, the Oakland Community Violence Reduction and Emergency Response Act, which approved the collection of parking and parcel taxes for nine years to fund activities within the DVP, Oakland Police Department, and Oakland Fire Department that achieve the following goals:

- 1) Reduce homicides, robberies, carjackings, break-ins, domestic violence, and other gun-related violence.
- 2) Reduce response time for 911 emergency calls for service and improve the quality of response.
- 3) Reduce the incidence of human trafficking, including the sexual exploitation of minors.

Measure NN allocates 40% of tax revenues to the DVP following an initial allocation of 3% to administrative expenses and \$3,000,000 to the Oakland Fire Department. Measure NN also requires that 75% of funds received by the DVP be allocated to grants with community-based organizations for violence prevention and intervention services. The DVP awarded \$13,008,112 to 21 community-based organizations to deliver community violence intervention services from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026, in accordance with these requirements ([Resolution 90734 C.M.S.](#) and [Resolution 90903 C.M.S.](#)).

Oakland Police Department:

The Oakland Police Department's response to domestic violence involves outreach programs, follow-up investigations, and timely response times. Domestic violence cases are addressed with a particular emphasis on victim safety, offender accountability, and collaboration with victim advocacy organizations.

The mission of the Oakland Police Department's Special Victims Section (SVS) is to investigate and intervene in domestic violence cases with a trauma-informed approach, while offering victim services and holding offenders accountable. The Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) focuses on intimate partner violence, child abuse, physical elder abuse, and stalking, providing intervention services and long-term case management.

The City of Oakland has prioritized domestic violence awareness through various programs, including outreach from the Family Violence Center located at the Family Justice Center. Patrol Officers are also well versed in providing DV victim rights and protections.

The Bureau of Operations (BFO) provides continuous patrol coverage and intervention on DV-related calls. The department's Special Victims Section (SVS), including the Family Violence Law Center (FVLC), coordinates efforts to respond to both immediate DV incidents and long-term investigations.

Response times to domestic violence calls are prioritized based on the severity of the incident, with high-risk situations (such as weapon involvement or injury) receiving immediate attention. The Department's goal is to reduce response times, improve victim outcomes, and ensure comprehensive investigations, while also collaborating with community-based organizations to provide support services.

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

This policy action advances the Citywide priority of holistic community safety and responsive, trustworthy government. Domestic violence disproportionately impacts woman of color in Oakland, particularly Black women. Services funded by the DVP for survivors of domestic violence are intended to reduce trauma and future violence for this population, thus moving Oakland closer to racial equity. OPD's goal is to reduce response times, improve victim outcomes, and ensure comprehensive investigations, while also collaborating with community-based organizations to provide support services

Department of Violence Prevention:

Tables 1 and 2 identify services funded by the DVP through Measure NN from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026, for survivors of domestic violence. **Table 1** identifies core services, which result in the identification and engagement of individuals impacted by domestic violence, and **Table 2** identifies support services, which are primarily available to individuals engaged through core services based on need. Both tables identify funding amounts and anticipated number of people served during the one-year grant period by each service and agency.

Table 1. Core services funded by the DVP from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026, for survivors of domestic violence.

Service category	Description of services	Agency	Funding amount	Anticipated # of people served
Crisis navigation	In-person response to survivors within 60 minutes of notification to support with safety planning and immediate needs.	Family Violence Law Center (FVLC)	\$250,000	60
Hotlines	24-hour hotline for survivors to access safety planning and service referrals: (800) 947-8301	FVLC	\$100,000	1,200
Life coaching for youth	Intensive life coaching services for youth survivors of domestic violence and/or commercial sexual exploitation.	East Bay Asian Youth Center (EBAYC)	\$340,000	20
		FVLC*	\$850,000	70

*The funding amount and anticipated number of people served reflect services delivered at seven high schools in the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD). FVLC delivers the same services at two additional high schools through funding from OUSD.

Table 2. Support services funded by the DVP from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026, for survivors of domestic violence.

Service category	Description of services	Agency	Funding amount	Anticipated # of people served
Emergency Housing	Hotel stays (up to 12 weeks) for survivors ages 18 and over (can accommodate children).	Sister to Sister	\$250,000	40
	Flexible funding up to \$5,000 for relocation or maintenance of current housing, referrals to shelter, or short-term hotel stays.	FVLC	\$200,000	40
Healing	Individual therapy services.	Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency	\$185,000	80
	Support groups for survivors who speak Spanish or Mam.	Mujeres Unidas Y Activas	\$245,000	240*
	Support groups for survivors who speak English.	Oakland LGBTQ Center	\$200,000	240*
		Love Never Fails	\$60,000	200*
Legal services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief advice and counsel. Support with obtaining new court orders, including restraining orders, other family law orders, and civil harassment orders. Short-term legal case management/advocacy and court accompaniment. Full representation for a limited number of clients. Subgrantees can provide support with family law/child custody and immigration cases. 	FVLC (lead grantee), Bay Area Legal Aid, and Justice At Last	\$530,000	600
Transitional housing	Transitional housing (6 to 12 months).	Love Never Fails	\$150,000	12

*These estimates may represent duplicated individuals since the DVP does not track individual participation in group services.

Oakland Police Department:

Domestic violence in Oakland is a pervasive issue, which is similar to other major urban areas, that requires a multi-faceted approach. OPD responds to DV incidents across the city with a range of strategies, from emergency intervention to long-term case follow-up. Investigators in the DVU work closely with district attorneys, community organizations, and advocates to ensure both criminal justice and victim advocacy needs are met.

OPD Domestic Violence Response and Procedures

1. Response Time and Prioritization

Domestic violence calls are prioritized based on the perceived risk to the victim, including the presence of weapons, injury, or previous history of violence. For high-risk DV cases, officers are expected to arrive at the scene within **5-7 minutes**, compared to the average response time of **10-15 minutes** for other emergency calls. This ensures immediate protection for victims and quick action to prevent further harm.

2. Immediate Intervention and Safety

Officers respond with the primary objective of ensuring the safety of all individuals involved, especially in high-risk situations. Victims are offered support by advocates from local organizations such as the Family Violence Center and other community partners. Immediate referrals to services for emergency shelter, legal protection, and counseling are also provided.

3. Long-Term Follow-Up

The DVU handles ongoing investigations for severe or repeat DV offenders, especially those involving children or intimate partner violence. The unit is also involved in stalking cases and works to protect victims through restraining orders and other legal measures. Follow-up investigations may involve collaboration with forensic experts, community organizations, and counselors to ensure long-term victim safety.

OPD Domestic Violence Enforcement Activity

The Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) in the Bureau of Investigations (BOI) is responsible for managing cases involving intimate partner violence, physical elder abuse, child abuse, and stalking. This unit also leads specialized operations focused on identifying repeat offenders and intervening in high-risk DV situations.

DV Investigations and Case Management

The DVU team conducts thorough investigations into DV cases, working closely with prosecutors and victim advocates to ensure perpetrators are held accountable. Year to date, the

DVU has reviewed 3,722 cases; **3,200** have been investigations which focused on repeat offenders and high-risk victims.

There are different types of restraining orders. A gun violence restraining order can stop someone from having, owning, or buying any firearms (guns), firearm parts, ammunition, or magazines once approved by a Judge. Oakland PD currently created the GVRO liaison position that works with both patrol officers and the Alameda County DA's Office to help author and enforce GVRO's.

Only certain people can ask for a gun violence restraining order if they think someone is dangerous and should be restricted from having or buying firearms and ammunition, including. Oakland PD's liaison and patrol officers may author a GVRO but it is not limited to law enforcement. Additional persons that are allowed to obtain a GVRO as follows:

- The person's immediate family member, including a spouse, parent, child, grandparent, or any other person who regularly lives with them now or lived with them in the last 6 months
- The person's employer
- The person's co-worker who has regular contact with the person and has worked with them for at least a year, and has the employer's permission to ask for this restraining order
- An employee or teacher at a school that the person has gone to in the last six months, who has permission from a school administrator or staff supervisor

OPD Domestic Violence Training

All OPD officers receive training on domestic violence recognition, handling of sensitive cases, and a trauma-informed approach to victim interaction. This training is reinforced during patrol line-ups and through specialized sessions from external experts, including community advocates and legal professionals.

OPD offers additional annual continuing professional training (CPT) on topics such as:

- Recognizing signs of emotional and physical abuse
- Interacting with victims of domestic violence, including children and vulnerable adults
- Understanding legal frameworks around DV protection orders
- Mandatory Arrest Policy
- Patrol Officers are provided yearly training to remind them the use of partnering with emergency crisis advocates

Community Partnerships

The Domestic Violence Unit works extensively with community-based organizations and service providers, such as the Family Justice Center, local shelters, and counseling agencies, to provide wrap-around services for victims. These collaborations include:

- **Co-response teams:** Officers partner with victim advocates (often thru Highland Hospital and FVLC) to offer immediate on-scene assistance to victims of domestic violence. Patrol Officers are provided yearly training to remind them the use of partnering with emergency crisis advocates.
- **Community outreach:** OPD conducts regular community meetings and informational campaigns to raise awareness about domestic violence and available resources.

General Review of DV Statistics

Table 3 provides a snapshot of OPD's domestic violence case management efforts. On average year-to-date, each investigator has conducted 620 investigations

Table 3. OPD's Domestic Violence Case Management Efforts YTD

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Number of Investigators	6	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6			6
Total Cases	374	357	295	408	405	327	384	408	382	382			3,722
Total Cases Assigned (DD/653m filed)	105	104	107	135	129	88	105	135	108	92			1,108
Investigator Closures: Dispo #19 (Total Cases)	105	104	107	135	129	88	105	135	108	92			1108
Assigned Cases/Investigator (Approximate)													620
<i>Physical Elder Abuse Case Statistics (AB40)</i>													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Total Cases Received	1	1	1	3	2	2	1	0	0	0			11
Total Cases Assigned	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0			4
Total Cases Referred to APS	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	0			6
Felony Cases: PRESENTED	3	2	1	0	1	1	2	0	2	0			12
Felony Cases: CHARGED	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	0			8
Misdemeanor Cases: PRESENTED	2	0	1	0		0	0	0	3	1			7
Misdemeanor Cases: CHARGED	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1			4
* PAROLE Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
* PROBATION Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
<i>Domestic Violence Case Statistics</i>													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Felony Cases: PRESENTED	62	46	84	70	89	86	73	70	53	88			721
Felony Cases: CHARGED	10	24	34	25	46	30	24	25	15	23			256
Misdemeanor Cases: PRESENTED	47	31	63	56	57	55	33	56	50	69			517
Misdemeanor Cases: CHARGED	12	7	10	21	17	10	17	21	9	5			129
* PAROLE Violations	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2			7
* PROBATION Violations	0	1	2	4	1	3	2	4	0	4			21
<i>Other Domestic Violence Unit Statistics</i>													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Ramey/Arrest Warrants	10	6	8	12	9	9	6	12	9	7			88
Search Warrants	3	3	3	3	1	3	5	4	1	3			29
DV Related Shootings	0	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	2	0			12
Drugs Recovered	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			2
Firearms Recovered	0	1	5	0	1	0	0	1	0	2			10

Patrol Officers provide all victims of Domestic Violence resource and victim's rights cards. Due to the large caseload, DVU ensures that all reports are forwarded to the Family Violence Law Center. The Family Violence Center contacts each victim with the purpose of providing resources and free legal assistance.

FISCAL IMPACT

Department of Violence Prevention:

From October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026, the DVP will invest approximately \$3,360,000 in Measure NN funds in services available to survivors of domestic violence.

Oakland Police Department:

There are no fiscal opportunities associated with this report.

PAST PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION, AND FOLLOW-UP

Department of Violence Prevention:

[Resolution 90734 C.M.S.](#), which authorized the DVP's grants with 21 community-based organizations for community violence intervention services from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026, contains information on evidence of impact for all service categories and prior performance for all funded agencies. It also includes information on how the DVP will assess the quantity, quality, and impact of funded services.

Oakland Police Department:

There are no past performance, evaluation, and follow-up information associated with this report.

COORDINATION

This report is a joint report between OPD and DVP with input from the city administrator's office.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic:

This report is informational and does not include a direct recommendation. However, continued investment in victim services and proactive intervention may result in cost savings by reducing repeat offenses and enhancing community well-being.

Environmental: There are no environmental opportunities associated with this report.

Race & Equity: Domestic violence disproportionately impacts woman of color in Oakland, particularly Black women. Services funded by the DVP for survivors of domestic violence are intended to reduce trauma and future violence for this population, thus moving Oakland closer to racial equity. OPD's goal is to reduce response times, improve victim outcomes, and ensure comprehensive investigations, while also collaborating with community-based organizations to provide support services.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff Recommends That The City Council Receive An Informational Report Of The City's Programs Responding To Domestic Violence.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Marcos Campos, Lieutenant, at mcampos@oaklandca.gov or Jennifer Linchey, DVP Deputy Chief, at jlinchey@oaklandca.gov.

Respectfully submitted,


Floyd Mitchell
Chief, Oakland Police Department


Holly Joshi (Nov 13, 2025 08:00:57 PST)

Dr. Holly Joshi
Chief, Department of Violence Prevention

Reviewed by:

Jenny Linchey, Deputy Chief
DVP, Grants, Programs, and Evaluation

Marcos Campos, Lieutenant
OPD, Special Victims Section

Prepared by:
Dr. Tracey Jones, Polices Services Manager
OPD, Research and Planning Unit