

October 15, 2009

**FREEHOLDERS PROCLAIM OCTOBER  
AS “DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH” IN ESSEX COUNTY**



Essex County Prosecutor Paula T. Dow is presented with Resolution by the Board of Freeholders: (front row, left to right) Freeholder Donald M. Payne, Jr., Freeholder Linda Lordi Cavanaugh, Freeholder President Blonnie R. Watson, Prosecutor Dow, Freeholder Vice President Ralph R. Caputo and Freeholder Samuel Gonzalez, and (back row, left to right) Freeholder Patricia Sebold, Pamela McCauley, Director of the Prosecutor's Office of Victim & Witness Services, and Freeholder Rufus I. Johnson - (Photo by Glen Frieson)

(Newark, NJ) – During a brief ceremony held during their October 14, 2009, meeting at Maplewood Town Hall, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders presented a framed Resolution to Essex County Prosecutor Paula T. Dow in which they proclaimed October as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month” in Essex County.

The Resolution spoke to the fact that, “...domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security and humanity due to the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological and economic abuse of power and control.” It also stated that, “Those abused can be children, siblings, spouses or parents...”, and that both victims and offenders, “...come from all racial, socio-economic, religious and economic backgrounds.” Further, the Resolution pointed out that in New Jersey, a domestic violence-related event occurs every 7 minutes and 26 seconds, and that 56 people were murdered by their partners in 2008 (9 of whom were from Essex County), a 50% increase from the 2007 statewide total of 38 in 2007.

During her remarks, Prosecutor Dow pointed out that Essex County is working hard to address the horrific crime of domestic violence through the establishment of the Essex County Family Justice Center, the Essex County Domestic Violence Working Group, the Essex County Domestic Violence Assessment Center and Domestic Violence Response Teams. She reiterated the shocking statistics, that about 82,000 cases of domestic violence have been reported in New Jersey over the last 5 to 10 years, and that, “... too often, many of them lead, tragically, to homicides.” She went on to say, “I’m very proud to stand here with the support of the members of this Freeholder Board, knowing that I have great support in all that we endeavor to do to fight this invidious crime.”

Speaking on behalf of the Board, Freeholder Linda Lordi Cavanaugh of West Orange told Prosecutor Dow, “I think this is wonderful that you brought this to our attention.” She went on to say, “We can’t underestimate the impact that having the Prosecutor of the County stand up and talk about domestic violence, a subject that was taboo for far too long, can have in bringing this crime out of the shadows so it can be stopped.” She concluded, “I’m very, very proud of you and your office for working so hard, and for making this a priority.”

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