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**City of Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault  
Statement on Recent Sexual Assault of Older Adult**

*Resources available to victims for support and medical costs*

MILWAUKEE – The City of Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault joins the community in its outrage following the sexual assault of an older adult on Milwaukee’s northwest side, and will continue to work collaboratively with the Milwaukee Police Department on policies and practices pertaining to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. The Milwaukee Police Department has been an integral member of the Commission since its inception.

“Sexual assault is a crime that knows no boundaries and affects individuals of all ages,” said Dawn Helmrich, Commission Chair. “It is imperative that when victims find the courage to disclose, we respond to them in a way that is sensitive to their experience and alleviates the barriers faced by too many survivors of sexual assault.”

It was reported that the victim hesitated to seek medical treatment because of concern over the cost of an ambulance. No victim should feel the need to forego needed medical services due to expense. Help is available through the Wisconsin Department of Justice Crime Victim Compensation Program, which helps pay for non-reimbursed eligible expenses that result from a crime, including medical expenses and ambulance costs. For more information, contact the Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of Crime Victim Services at (800) 446-6564.

**The Commission also renews its continuing request that media respect victim privacy and exercise sound judgment in the use of public records to contact survivors who have experienced life-altering, traumatic assault.**

*The City of Milwaukee Health Department’s Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault was founded by the Milwaukee Common Council in 1979, and is a multidisciplinary board representing the many systems that serve victims in our community to improve local responses to domestic violence and sexual assault.*

*If you or someone you know needs support, contact the Sexual Assault Treatment Center 24-hour hotline at (414) 219-5555 or The Healing Center at (414) 671-4325.*

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*Think Health. Act Now!*

