



Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, CHE
Commissioner of Health

Health Department Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3653 phone (414) 286-2997 fax (414) 286-8174
web site: www.milwaukee.gov/health

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Contact: Sarah DeRoo
Office (414) 286-3548
Cell (414) 708-4060

**Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Statement
on Recent Domestic Violence-Related Homicide**
Partners citywide offer safe, confidential resources to all victims

MILWAUKEE – The Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is deeply saddened by the domestic violence-related shooting this past weekend. Without question, the impact of this tragedy extends well beyond the immediate victims, and our membership offers its sincere condolences to the loved ones of those involved.

While stressors and other extenuating circumstances may complicate an abusive relationship, power and control are the root cause of domestic violence. Homicide represents the ultimate exercise of those tactics.

Little is known publicly about this case, yet domestic violence experts know that cases involving law enforcement personnel present exceptional obstacles for victims. Law enforcement personnel hold a position of authority, enabling access to information, training, tools and resources that could be used to perpetuate harm and abuse. It can also be difficult for a victim to reach out to law enforcement for help, as they may be contacting their partner's friends and colleagues. These existing relationships can fuel a victim's fear of retaliation and compromise their ability to seek life-saving services.

The Commission advocates for the adoption of protocols and prevention strategies by law enforcement agencies that account for these challenges. We offer our assistance in implementing strategies to reduce barriers while supporting families affected by violence.

Careful planning is critical to assist survivors in leaving a relationship as safely as possible. If you are concerned for your safety, know that help is available. The City of Milwaukee Health Department Office of Violence Prevention provides a list of resources, where you can connect with safe, confidential services. We also encourage loved ones of those involved to reach out for support and healing.

For more information, visit Milwaukee.gov/StaySafe.

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

Think Health. Act Now!