



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services *LS*
COPY: Community Vitality and Safety (CVS) Council Committee;
William, Suarez, CVS Staff Support
PRESENTER: Pamela Duncan, Division Manager and Vicky McLaurin, Program Manager,
Neighborhood and Community Services
SUBJECT: Domestic Violence Assessment
DATE: April 12, 2018

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Please select the type of presentation you will be making to the Council Committee.
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

The 2016 Community Needs Assessment reported the rate of domestic violence offenses in Tacoma as being four times higher in 2014 than rates reported in Renton, Seattle, and Fife. The objective of this updated Domestic Violence Needs Assessment was to gather information from local service providers and other key community stakeholders to better understand the current needs of the victim population, establish the range of direct and indirect services currently being provided, identify potential shortcomings and gaps in the provision of services to the victim population, and present opportunities for building local capacity to serve this population. The goal of this assessment is that the information presented will assist the City in strategic planning and funding decisions in support of service provision for the affected population.

BACKGROUND:

A memo dated November 8, 2016 from former City Manager, T.C. Broadnax, was sent to Council in response to a question regarding the City of Tacoma's Domestic Violence (DV) Investments for the 2017-2018 Biennium. Council approved staff recommendations to fund services to address some of the identified supports that make up the DV system of services. In 2017, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) contracted with EnviroIssues to update the 2011 DV Assessment, to provide an updated picture of the system of services that are critical to address the level of unmet/underserved service needs. This update will inform the funding priorities for the 2019-2020 Biennium competitive funding process. The assessment data will also be used to better align the existing services for Tacoma and Pierce County, guide the development of common measures, and assist partners with managing a coordinated system to address domestic violence.

ISSUE:

The most recent Domestic Violence Assessment was completed in 2011. As mentioned in the 2016 Tacoma Community Needs Assessment completed by Berk Consulting:



- “Since 2005, the rate of domestic violence offenses reported to the Tacoma Police Department is, on average, 2.5 times the statewide rate.
- Many domestic violence victims, especially those with few resources, find themselves homeless. 28% of homeless individuals, including children, in the Pierce County point-in-time count have experienced domestic violence” (Consulting, 2016). The updated DV Assessment will be used to establish an accurate baseline of DV- related services and identify opportunities for the City to direct resources and efforts.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only.