



EXECUTIVE ORDER
Constituting a Central Falls Domestic Violence
Task Force
2023-0002

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2023, the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Address proposed investing in the launching of a Central Falls Domestic Violence Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Central Falls has had one of the highest rates of domestic violence per capita; and

WHEREAS, a combination of the economic and social pressures from the COVID-19 pandemic, together with the confinement of families to close quarters, has produced an escalation in domestic violence cases; and

WHEREAS, it is an important step for Central Falls to prioritize education, resources, and outreach around this life-saving topic, including to local middle and high school students.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Maria Rivera, Mayor of the City of Central Falls, pursuant to Sections 4-100, 102, and 700 of the Central Falls Home Rule Charter, declare and order the following, effective immediately:

1. There is hereby constituted a Central Falls Domestic Violence Task Force; and
2. The Task Force shall be composed of the following fourteen (14) members:
 - a. Matthew Jerzyk, Esq. – City Solicitor (Co-Chair)
 - b. Colonel Anthony Roberson – Central Falls Police Chief (Co-Chair)
 - c. Nicholas Hemond, Esq. – City Criminal Prosecutor
 - d. Zuleyma Gomez – Central Falls Director of El Centro & Health
 - e. Captain Craig Viens – Central Falls Police Department Commander of Admin. & Investigation
 - f. Sgt. Nicholas DiCarlo – Central Falls Police Department Domestic Violence Liaison
 - g. Detective Stephanie Ruano – Central Falls Prosecution Detective
 - h. Zabdi Mesa – Central Falls Law Enforcement Advocate
 - i. Toni Marie Roderick – Executive Director, Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center
 - j. Kimberly Demers – Director of Community Service, Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center
 - k. Cynthia Coburn – Director of Court Advocacy, Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center
 - l. Denise Debarros – Director of Family Supports, Central Falls School Department
 - m. Bishop Stephen Harper – Head Pastor, New Life Church
 - n. Lisy De La Roca – Domestic Violence Case Manager, Progreso Latino
3. A quorum of the Task Force shall be eight (8) members for the purpose of voting matters and seven (7) members for the purpose of non-voting matters; and
4. The Task Force shall initially meet in September and thereafter shall meet monthly for the purpose of (i) reviewing and enhancing current processes for keeping victims safe; (ii) conducting multilingual educational and prevention campaigns; and (iii) tracking the city's domestic violence incident data and misdemeanor cases and brainstorming strategies for better outcomes; and
5. The City Clerk or his or her designee shall serve as a non-voting, ex-officio Secretary of the Task Force.

Maria Rivera

Mayor

Dated: July 26, 2023