

**KING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (KCSO)  
PROVISO RESPONSE**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INVESTIGATIONS AND  
INTERVENTION UNIT  
2015 FOURTH QUARTER REPORT**

The following is a recap of the formation and activities that have occurred during the fourth quarter of 2015 and the first quarter of 2016 related to the KCSO Domestic Violence Investigations and Intervention Unit (DVIU):

**Domestic Violence Investigations and Intervention Unit**

- **Mission:** To improve the immediate safety of domestic violence victims and their families, to increase knowledge surrounding domestic violence crimes, awareness and resources for prevention, to decrease isolation of victims and to develop greater community awareness and support for DV victims.

Expected long-term impacts include improved quality and timeliness of criminal investigations, long term victim support, safety and improved quality of life for victims and their families. We will improve communications with the prosecutors and courts to ensure DV offender accountability thereby reducing the number of repeat offenses and breaking the long term cycle of violence involving family and household members.

➤ **Goals:**

1. Community Outreach, Prevention and Education (COPE);
2. Identify, review and investigate all incidents of domestic violence; and
3. Provide victims and their families with information, assistance and support they will require in collaboration with other investigative units, agencies and the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

- **2016 Priorities:**
- Identify key community groups/resources, establish relationships and determine needs
  - Conduct thorough, professional, quality investigations in cooperation with other agencies, the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (KCPAO) and the court appointed DV advocates.
  - Reduction of repeat DV offenses, offender accountability and victim/family recovery
  - Identification of additional resources necessary to support the goals noted above

The following list of goals and objectives is a work in progress for a new unit. The DV unit began its formation in September of 2015. At that point the general mission of the unit was created along with a general direction and SOPs. The process of selecting Detectives and a Community Service Officer (CSO) began and were completed around the first of November. The statistics only represent two full months of work, and as stated above, is a work in progress. Interagency relationships have been developed and internal training has been a priority.

Goals/Performance Measures	Completion Date	Progress Through 4th Quarter of 2015																				
Goal 1: Identification of key community groups	Outreach on-going	➤ Two local DV support groups																				
Goal 1: Training provided ➤ Internal ➤ External	On-going	➤ All new recruits receive a full 8-hour training course from the DV Unit. So far 20 new deputies have received the training. ➤ Three 50 min roll call trainings have been provided (24 Deputies)																				
Goal 2: Cases referred back to KCSO DV Unit for felony filing review	To date	➤ 18 case sent back via prosecutor ➤ 15 re-filed as felonies																				
Goal 2: Number of DV cases referred to Prosecutor for filing per Precinct	To date	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1171 623 1360 651">Precinct</th> <th data-bbox="1360 623 1528 651">Felony</th> <th data-bbox="1528 623 1717 651">Misdemeanor</th> <th data-bbox="1717 623 1936 651">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1171 678 1360 706">2</td> <td data-bbox="1360 678 1528 706">3</td> <td data-bbox="1528 678 1717 706">24</td> <td data-bbox="1717 678 1936 706">27</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1171 734 1360 761">3</td> <td data-bbox="1360 734 1528 761">12</td> <td data-bbox="1528 734 1717 761">49</td> <td data-bbox="1717 734 1936 761">61</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1171 789 1360 816">4</td> <td data-bbox="1360 789 1528 816">27</td> <td data-bbox="1528 789 1717 816">60</td> <td data-bbox="1717 789 1936 816">87</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1171 844 1360 872"><b>Total</b></td> <td data-bbox="1360 844 1528 872"><b>42</b></td> <td data-bbox="1528 844 1717 872"><b>133</b></td> <td data-bbox="1717 844 1936 872"><b>175</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Precinct	Felony	Misdemeanor	Total	2	3	24	27	3	12	49	61	4	27	60	87	<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>175</b>
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Goal 3: Number of contacts for information/support from a CSO	Current assignments come from DV Unit Sergeant CSO Provides support and acts as a liaison with the DV advocate	➤ Have been assigned 50 cases to provide support, contact and information to.																				
Goal 3: Number of court/pros events accompanied by a DV Unit member	To date	➤ Two incidents supported by CSO in court																				
Goal 3: Survey results regarding quality of service provided throughout process and recommendations for improved response.	On-going. Survey not completed yet. Working on format and languages.	Areas identified to review include; ➤ 911 Communications ➤ Patrol response ➤ Investigator follow-up ➤ Non-Police support ➤ Prosecutor/Court advocates and support																				

**Activities:**

In November 2015 a DVIU detective was contacted by the King County PAO on a case that had been filed as an Assault 4<sup>th</sup> degree (gross misdemeanor). The detective conducted follow-up of the crime obtaining medical records showing the victim had suffered a broken finger during a previous incident. The PAO was able to file the case as an Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> degree (felony).

In December 2015 a DVIU detective was contacted by the King County PAO regarding possible witness intimidation on a filed gross misdemeanor DV crime. The detective met with the victim, deputy prosecutor and Child Protective Services at the victim's school to conduct a joint interview. Probable cause to arrest and charge the suspect with the felony crime of Witness Intimidation was established.

In December 2015 a DVIU detective was reviewing the narrative of an Assault 4<sup>th</sup> degree case (gross misdemeanor) when they noted details implying strangulation of the victim. The detective interviewed the victim in further detail which resulted in the PAO filing Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> degree (felony) charges.

A case had been forwarded to the King County PAO for misdemeanor violation of No Contact Order. Upon further review by the DVIU detective, it was found that because of prior history the case should have been filed as a felony violation of the No Contact Order. The filing was amended and the suspect charged appropriately.

Through cooperative efforts by KCSO DVIU detectives, Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys, Victim Advocates, or other members of the criminal justice system multiple cases have been reviewed and determined to require further investigation. These investigations often lead to enhanced prosecution or the filing of more serious charges. Without the expertise and relationships established by members of the KCSO DVIU, a number of these cases may not have received the attention they needed for successful prosecution. We know that this translates to decreased risks for the victims we serve.