

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz Recognizes October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month with County-wide Initiatives

BROCKTON, MA – Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz announced today that his office will be recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month with two countywide initiatives.

For the sixth consecutive year his office will be sponsoring a month-long, cross-county cell phone collection drive in support of Verizon Wireless' **HopeLine**[®] program, which collects unused wireless phones to support survivors of domestic violence. Cell phone collection boxes are placed at police departments throughout the county, the Plymouth County District Attorney's offices in Plymouth, Brockton, Hingham and Wareham, the Caritas Christi Good Samaritan Hospital in Brockton, as well as Brockton City Hall. More than **25** police departments will host collection boxes including Abington, Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, West Bridgewater, Brockton, Carver, Duxbury, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Hingham, Hull, Kingston, Lakeville, Marion, Marshfield, Mattapoisett, Middleboro, Norwell, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Rochester, Rockland, Scituate, Wareham and Whitman. Since 2005, the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office has donated over 8,000 cell phones and accessories to the HopeLine program.

The second countywide initiative being championed by the District Attorney's Office is a book drive for children exposed to domestic violence. Last year his office began collecting gently used children's books, ages infant through young adult, that were donate to the domestic violence programs servicing Plymouth County. The collection was a success with over 4,300 books being donated and placed in the hands of children witnessing and fleeing domestic violence. A collection box will be located at the Brockton Mayor's Office as well as the following Public Libraries: Abington, Bridgewater, Halifax, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Hanson, Hull, Kingston, Lakeville, Mattapoisett, Marshfield, Middleboro, Plympton, Rochester, Rockland, Wareham and West Bridgewater.

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Although the District Attorney is taking the opportunity to spotlight domestic violence through Domestic Violence Awareness Month, his office fights for victims of domestic violence on a daily basis. He has created specialized Domestic Violence Units, his office runs a nationally recognized program tracking and prosecuting serious repeat domestic violence offenders, has been the beneficiary and manager of a federal grant that enhances domestic violence education, outreach, and resources throughout the county, and his staff spends numerous hours in the community trainings and collaborating on domestic violence initiatives.

District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz stated *“As a law enforcement official I feel it is important to highlight the topic of domestic violence whenever possible. It is happening to people throughout Plymouth County at alarming rates so the need to focus is ever present. Using Domestic Violence Awareness Month to spotlight this issue is just the beginning. As a community we need to stand together to fight domestic violence. We in law enforcement cannot do it alone; it starts long before we become involved. Domestic violence is not just a private ‘family issue’ but a larger community issue that effects every one of us. It does not remain behind the closed doors of a violent home but spills out into the community in ways that are often overlooked. You may not think that you know anyone involved in a domestic violence situation but the odds of that are against you. The statistics are staggering; you most likely know a victim, perpetrator, or child witness to it. It is up to us as a community to put an end to it. We need to speak up and no longer remain silent. There are programs here in Plymouth County that do an amazing job helping victims and survivors of domestic violence everyday. They could use our support as a community in the work towards ending domestic violence all together.”*

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