

EXECUTIVE ORDER AND DIRECTIVE 12-05
Issued by
ALBANY COUNTY EXECUTIVE DANIEL McCOY

Whereas, Albany County hereby declares freedom from domestic violence to be a fundamental human right; and

Whereas, 73 New Yorkers were victims of intimate partner homicide in 2010 according to the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence; and

Whereas, Equinox provided services through their 24-hour domestic violence hotline to 1,612 persons who experienced domestic violence in 2010; also in 2010, Equinox provided shelter for 237 adults and their 116 children and helped 363 victims retrieve orders of protection from the courts; and

Whereas, New York courts issued a total of 301,488 orders of protection in 2010, of which 219,876 were required to be recorded in the Unified Court System's Domestic Violence Registry; and

Whereas, the number of required orders of protection issued in New York State increased 6% from 2009 to 2010, and 34% from 2007; and

Whereas, in 2010, almost 1,100 individuals under the age of 21 filed family offense petitions in New York State Family Courts under the expanded definition of "intimate relationship", a 22% increase from 2009; and

Whereas, 11% of New York State high school students surveyed in 2009 reported that they were intentionally hit, slapped or physically hurt by their boyfriend or girlfriend (New York State Domestic Violence Dashboard Project 2010 Data); and

Whereas, the Albany County Crime Victims and Sexual Violence Center provided services, including information, referral services and criminal advocacy for approximately 2,231 victims of domestic violence in 2011.

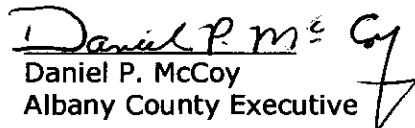
Whereas, survivors of domestic violence experience physical injuries, long-term psychological damage, financial instability, and difficulty finding safe housing; and

Whereas, police and sheriff's departments, courts, cities, counties, social service agencies, and other local government entities constitute the first line of defense against domestic violence; and

THEREFORE, I, Daniel McCoy, Albany County Executive, by virtue of the powers vested in me pursuant to the Albany County Charter and the laws of the State of New York, HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT THAT:

- (1) The County joins world leaders and leaders within the United States in recognition of domestic violence as a human rights concern and declares freedom from domestic violence to be a fundamental human right; and
- (2) This Order shall serve as a declaration assuring the citizens of the County that the County government bears a moral responsibility to secure this human right on behalf of its people; and
- (3) This Order shall serve as a charge to all County agencies to incorporate these principles into their policies and practices; and
- (4) A copy of this Order be sent to the Chair of the Albany County Legislature, the Albany County Sheriff's Department as well as the mayors and/or head executives of each municipality within Albany County.

Dated: 31st day of October, 2012
Albany, NY


Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive