

# Highlights of October 28, 2008 Teleconference

## CRISIS MANAGEMENT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE DEPARTMENT

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### ***Officer-Involved Domestic Violence***

Officer-involved domestic violence was considered a private family matter prior to the mid-1970's and in the early 1980's. The Battered Women's Movement proposed that spousal abuse should be recognized as a societal problem, not merely a private family issue.

### ***Barriers to the Prosecution of Domestic Violence Cases***

Old attitudes were slow to change. Families feared loss of privacy and personal embarrassment. Victims accustomed to abuse considered it normal. There was little support for victims who disclosed and slow or no response to complaints by the criminal justice system.

### ***Why Have a Distinct Policy for the Department?***

- It demonstrates that leadership can and will tackle criminal behavior by officers.
- It bolsters trust in the community by showing that officers are not exempt from the law.
- It reduces liability for the department.
- It manages danger to officers' families and the general public.

### ***6 Most Common Areas of Officer Liability***

- Failure to take proper actions to protect.
- Failure to appropriately enforce court order protecting a victim.
- Failure to respond at all or in a timely manner.
- Failure to provide victim with information required by law.
- Failure to establish probable cause before making an arrest.
- Exhibiting a pattern of differential treatment or application of the law to DV cases.

### ***Advantages of a Department Policy***

- Promotes trust in the community.
- Protects department integrity.
- Preserves careers.
- Prevents domestic violence and saves lives.
- Preempts liability.

### ***Policy Components:***

- Prevention Education Training
- Early Warning Intervention
- Incident Response Protocols
- Victim Safety & Protection
- Post Incident Decisions