

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 27, 2010

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As Domestic Violence Awareness Month begins, Chicago Justice Project and Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network call for additional police reporting as preventive measure

(Chicago, Ill.) — The Chicago Justice Project (CJP) and Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network say that the Chicago Police Department would likely be able to have a greater impact on domestic-related crimes if officers were simply required to complete a report whenever they make a call for service. CJP made its plea for additional reporting as Domestic Violence Awareness month begins.

CJP says that between 2005-'09, 70 percent of the calls coming in for domestic-related service did not result in a report being generated. "If service calls resulted in reports, even if no charges were filed, CPD officers would be able to see trends and potentially prevent future violence, or even homicides," says CJP Executive Director Tracy Siska.

CJP also joins the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network in calling for the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) to release information on domestic-related calls for service prior to a domestic violence homicide.

"The public ought to know who made calls for service prior to a domestic-related homicide," Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network Executive Director Dawn Dalton says. "It's an effective preventive measure we should be using but aren't."

The Chicago Justice Project (CJP) is an independent organization with the core mission of increasing public access to justice-related information, based on the guiding principle that access to accurate information is the foundation of any meaningful reform to the criminal justice system. Funded in part by The Ford Foundation, CJP projects and programs are designed to foster greater transparency and accountability. For interview requests please contact Jennifer Gordon (773) 983-1995.