



William M. Taylor
Superintendent

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Deborah Friedl
Deputy Superintendent

Public Information Officer:

Captain Timothy Crowley
Office: (978) 674-1907
tcrowley@lowellma.gov

Arthur Ryan, Jr.
Deputy Superintendent

LPD Receives Grant from Office on Violence Against Women

The Lowell Police Department (LPD) has received a \$450,000 grant from the federal Office on Violence Against Women to combat domestic violence in Lowell. This funding will allow the LPD to hire a Victim Advocate. The Victim Advocate will work with domestic violence victims to help them obtain services such as safety planning, legal advocacy, mental health counseling, and emergency housing. Funds will also be utilized to implement a lethality assessment program designed to identify victims who are at an elevated risk for experiencing lethal violence at the hands of an intimate partner. These victims will be provided access to emergency services through Alternative House, a local domestic violence victim service provider. “The funding provided through this grant will allow us to provide emergency safety planning and housing for victims who would otherwise be in significant danger,” remarked Kathy Kelley, the Executive Director for Alternative House.

The LPD has been an active member of the Greater Lowell Evaluation and Advocacy Network (GLEAN) since its inception in 2012. GLEAN is a partnership of public, private, and nonprofit agencies dedicated to ending domestic violence in the Lowell area. GLEAN meets monthly to discuss domestic violence in the City. Additionally, specific cases of domestic violence are brought forward for evaluation. Cases that display signs of having a high risk of escalating to lethal violence are prioritized. In these cases, the offenders are aggressively targeted for arrest and prosecution, while the victims receive access to extensive services. Superintendent of Police, William Taylor, remarked, “The LPD is committed to ending domestic violence in the Lowell community. This grant will provide significant assistance as we work towards this very important goal”. Since its inception, the GLEAN partnership has had several significant success stories. Several victims have been protected through both the conviction and incarceration of violent offenders and access to vital services, such as emergency shelter, legal advocacy, and counseling. The LPD and Alternative House will use this funding from the Office on Violence Against Women to build on the strong foundation that GLEAN has established over the past few years. While completely eliminating domestic violence will take time, the LPD is confident this grant will help reduce the number of severe and extreme cases of domestic violence in Lowell.