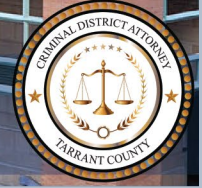


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, October 25, 2018

Statement re: release of Texas Council of Family Violence “Honoring Texas Victims” report

“We’ve been confronting intimate partner violence head on here in Tarrant County. Our work continues each day – and we are making progress. Today’s [ICFV report](#) shows not only that the number of intimate partner murders in our county decreased from 2016 to 2017, but that Tarrant County is now ranked lower than both Harris and Bexar Counties, also an improvement over last year.

“In 2016, I created a special felony prosecution team to exclusively handle these offenses, which received the strong support and financial backing of our Commissioners Court.

“This team has spent the last two years working proactively to change the way these crimes are prosecuted, investigated by law enforcement, and thought about by the community as a whole.

- We are focusing on evidence-based prosecution, which alleviates the singular reliance on the victim’s testimony by ensuring all partners secure the strongest evidentiary case at every step of the process. Our team is aggressively prosecuting these cases, and obtaining higher sentences from Tarrant county juries for these offenders than ever before
- We are communicating with our 40+ police departments, and training officers in new ways to engage with both intimate partner violence offenders and survivors from the first contact.
- We’ve engaged first responders, medical personnel and non-profits in the process to increase awareness of the signs of these crimes, and availability of the resources to survivors.
- We review each and every suspected IPV related homicide, including murder/suicides, with a multidisciplinary group to identify IPV history and gaps in services to make sure we are addressing any systemic issues Tarrant County can work to correct from the CDA’s office, law enforcement, medical providers, and service providers, including SafeHaven and One Safe Place.
- And we’ve visited with schools, churches, businesses and dozens of other community organizations to raise awareness among Tarrant County’s residents of the prevalence of this problem, and what they can do to assist survivors in our community.

“This month, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we are continuing our annual [#NotInMyCounty](#) social media campaign to raise awareness and send a countywide message to abusers that we as a community will not tolerate this violence. *(To follow this effort in progress, please visit us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to see all of this year’s participants.)*

“We are here to support the victims of intimate partner violence, to educate the public about this crime, and to prosecute the abusers. And through the partnership of this community, we hope to one day finally eliminate the need for reports like this one.”

--Criminal District Attorney Sharen Wilson