

Sausalito Police Department announces Domestic Violence Services Coordinator

Domestic Violence continues to be a major social problem and we need look no further than San Francisco at the recent domestic violence case of the Mirkarimi family to see how this issue affects families and communities. Among other things it highlights both the secrecy associated with domestic violence and how underreported it is. It also illustrates how difficult it is to get victims linked to the support and services they need to free themselves from abusive relationships. Domestic violence is one of the most underreported crimes, therefore when we receive a report of domestic abuse, we have an obligation to ensure we are doing everything possible to stop the cycle of violence. Today we are proud to announce that Yolanda Finstad will be SPD's new **Domestic Violence Services Coordinator**.

Chief Tejada is a longtime advocate of developing partnerships with service providers and community members to provide a comprehensive response to domestic violence. When she learned that Yolanda Finstad, (a member of 'Volunteers in Public Service' and recent graduate of Sausalito Police Department's Citizen Academy) is a trained domestic violence victim advocate, the two began to develop ideas to enhance SPD's response to domestic violence. The outcome is a new volunteer position called **Domestic Violence Services Coordinator**.

The District Attorney's office and the staff at the Center for Domestic Peace (CDP) are very supportive of this new venture. In preparation for this assignment, Yolanda recently attended a Law Enforcement Domestic Violence training for first responders presented by staff from CDP and Assistant District Attorney Chuck Cacciatore. Upon learning of SPD's new program, Donna Garske, ED of Center for Domestic Peace said, "From our experience, partnerships and community collaborations are key to addressing the complex issues of domestic violence. We continue to be encouraged by the law enforcement community in Marin's commitment to seek justice for the victims and to hold the perpetrators accountable. This crime will not end until we do."

Yolanda is ready to move forward and help SPD with its goal to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence to navigate their way out of abusive relationships. While Yolanda's task is primarily to support the victim in connecting to services through the Center for Domestic Peace, our overarching goal is to promote safety and mutual respect in relationships and reduce the incidents of domestic violence in our community.

Welcome Yolanda!

Chief Jennifer Tejada, Sausalito Police Department