



CITY OF MILWAUKEE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION
MILWAUKEE COMMISSION ON
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

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**ADDENDUM QUARTERLY REPORT TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT OF 2008
JANUARY – JUNE 2008**

Legislative Efforts

1. **Safe Housing Act – Wisconsin Act 184 – April 2008**
The Commission helped develop the language for this Act, and the Common Council supported this legislation which allows victims of domestic violence or child abuse to break their lease if they must move to stay safe. The legislation requires certain legal documentation of the threat, and also allows landlords to evict the offender from a location if the victim also lives there. It also relieves landlords and victims of the obligation to pay for emergency calls to the address that are specifically for domestic abuse, child abuse or stalking.

2. **Homicide Prevention Law – An active supporter of this legislation, the Commission and Common Council supported this bi-partisan legislation which strengthens penalties for assaults that involve acts of non-fatal strangulation and suffocation. It specifically creates a strangulation/suffocation felony, which will make it easier for law enforcement and prosecution efforts in these very serious cases. Approximately ten percent of all homicides in the country are caused by strangulation and suffocation, so it is hoped that this new tool will allow prosecution and identification of those offenders whose behavior is beginning with choking/suffocating behavior but may escalate over time to fatal strangulation. Early intervention can lead to prevention.**

3. **Community Prosecution - Like the Common Council, the Commission has actively supported efforts to obtain continued funding for the community prosecution program. The community prosecution program has been a valuable crime-fighting partner along with citizens and law enforcement in the City of Milwaukee. The Commission continues to support ongoing efforts to maintain funding for this important program.**