

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 151

Approved April 10, 1996

WHEREAS, A program to help battered women has been adopted in the Town of Middletown and that it looks so good that it could well become a model for Rhode Island, and

WHEREAS, Middletown launched the program after George L. Andrade, Jr., the Town Council's President heard about a similar program in Framingham, Massachusetts, and

WHEREAS, Under the program, women who have won restraining orders against abusive husbands or companions will be given small cellular telephones. These phones are set up to dial police directly with the simple tap of one button, and

WHEREAS, With the increasing number of abusive cases that we continue to read and hear about, it would be in the best interest of the City of Providence to implement such a program, and

WHEREAS, Bell Atlantic/NYNEX has generously donated the PILOT Programs first three phones; Rhode Island Hospital Trust Bank is paying their monthly service costs, and

WHEREAS, These phones do add an intelligent layer of protection to Rhode Island's domestic abuse hotlines which log thousands of calls annually and this should give real teeth to restraining orders,

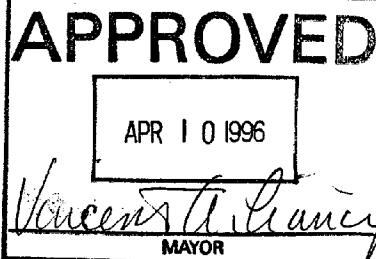
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Mayor and the Members of the Providence City Council do hereby endorse the concept and a possible feasibility study of the implementation of such a program, as soon as possible.

IN CITY COUNCIL

APR 4 1996
READ AND PASSED

Dwight V. Fargnoli
ACTING PRES.

Michael R. Clement
CLERK



Councilman J. M. J. J.

3513

CITIZENS ASSISTANCE REQUEST
 FROM THE OFFICE OF:
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO CITY COUNCIL
 421-7740 X 297

REQUESTED BY: COUNCILMEMBER
 WARD 13

DATE: 3/19/96

REQUEST:

Forward Attached to Michael
Clement, City Clerk for Resolution
Re: providing Cellular phones to women
in jeopardy of abuse

CONSTITUENT:

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

*Contact John Lombardi for details
 *Contact PPD domestic violence unit for

REFERRED TO:

CITY DEPARTMENT

of yrs in operation

PERSON

i.e. success of unit etc.

DEPARTMENT RESPONSE:

SIGNATURE:

WILL BE COMPLETED ON:

CANNOT BE COMPLETED DUE TO:

REFERRED TO DEPT OF:

NOTES:

PLEASE RETURN COPY TO THE OFFICE OF: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO CITY COUNCIL,
ROOM 310, CITY HALL WITHIN THREE (3) DAYS OF RECEIPT.

**OFFICE OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR****TOWN HALL****MIDDLETOWN, RHODE ISLAND 02842****Town Administrator
Michael E. Embury****Tel: 849-2898
Fax: 849-9245****March 12, 1996****TO: Steven DiLibero
Providence Civic Council****FROM: Michael E. Embury ^{net}
Town Administrator****RE: Cellular Phones**

The Town of Middletown, through the Police Department, provides cellular phones to women in jeopardy of abuse. In order to qualify for a phone, the woman must have a restraining order in effect at the time of the request. This phone is available for thirty (30) days and are programmed so that any button pushed dials directly to 911. These phones are unable to be used for personal calls.

Town of Middletown

Town Hall 350 East Main Road

Middletown, RI 02842

FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:

Steven Di Libero

FIRM:

Providence Civic Council

FAX:

401-521-3920 PHONE: 401-521-7477

FROM:

Michael Embury, Town Administrator

TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN

FAX: 401-845-0400 PHONE: 401-849-2898 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
401-846-4478 FINANCE DEPARTMENT

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER) 2

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FAMILY COURT
718-643-8890

Call 718-643-8890

BROOKLYN:

718-643-7037

BROOKLYN

718-802-3581

TOWN AD

GRAB

521-7477

LEGAL AID

849-2898

521-3920

788-2888

212-227-27

212

788-9600

212-577

Phones for battered women

A program to help battered women that was just adopted in Middletown looks so promising it could well become a model for Rhode Island.

Under the program, women who have won restraining orders against abusive husbands or companions will be given small cellular telephones. The phones are set up to dial police directly, with the simple tap of one button.

Bell Atlantic/NYNEX has generously donated the pilot program's first three phones; Rhode Island Hospital Trust Bank deserves thanks for paying their monthly service costs.

Middletown launched the program after George L. Andrade Jr., the town council's president, heard about a similar program in Framingham, Mass. And the idea seems to be spreading. Last Week, Boston police got phones. In New York this past fall, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani launched a pilot program for Manhattan that would give 10 women both cellular phones and at-home alarm systems to protect them from batterers. In a more extensive program in Brooklyn, 70 alarm pendants were provided.

The advantage of cellular phones is that they can summon help quickly, and in al-

most any circumstance in which a woman might be accosted. Frequently, batterers and stalkers will try to isolate their victims by cutting phone lines in their homes. Or they might confront victims in a place where it is not easy to call for help.

Police note that the cellular phones should be of particular value in places such as Middletown, where neighbors can live far apart.

The cellular phones add an intelligent layer of protection to Rhode Island's domestic abuse hotlines, which log thousands of calls annually. And they should give real teeth to restraining orders, which sometimes only serve to enrage batterers and promote heightened violence.

The demand for these phones is bound to spread very quickly once the word gets out. Decisions concerning who should get the few phones available could turn out to be agonizing.

Once the Middletown program has been given some time to work, perhaps the attorney general's office and local police chiefs should get together to find ways of making it more broadly available. The phones could go far in easing victims' fears. And they very well could save lives.

NYNEX

Hospital TRUST

PHONES OVERTO POLICE

Department

PHONES ~~30 days~~

OUTSTANDING Portray and

521-3920

FAX COVER SHEET
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES
52 CHAMBERS STREET, RM 303

PHONE: (212) 788-2888
FAX: (212) 788-2900

TO:

FROM:

DATE:

FAX NUMBER:

TOTAL PAGES (including cover page)

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

URGENT/IMMEDIATE ATTENTION
AWAITING YOUR COMMENTS
AS YOU REQUESTED
FOR YOUR INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL UPON RECEIPT
PER OUR CONVERSATION
OTHER

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

PRESS OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release #588-95

Date: Sunday, October 29, 1995

**Contact: Colleen Roche (212) 788-2958
Lenny Alcivar**

**MAYOR GIULIANI ANNOUNCES ALTERNATIVE TO SHELTER PROGRAM
TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani today announced its latest initiative in the fight against domestic violence. Joined by First Lady Donna Hanover Giuliani and Chair of the Health and Hospitals Corporation and Special Advisor to the Mayor for Health Policy Maria K. Mitchell, the Mayor unveiled an Upper West Side "Alternative to Shelter" pilot program, which helps provide an alternative to shelters for victims of domestic violence who wish to remain in their homes safely and without fear.

At the unveiling, held at St. Luke's - Roosevelt Hospital, the Mayor was also joined by Police Department Chief of Patrol Wilbur Chapman, the President of St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Gary Gambuti, Executive Director of Victims Services Lucy Friedman, a host of public/private service providers, corporate sponsors and participants in the "Alternative to Shelter" Program.

"We are here today to make the Upper West Side, and indeed our City, a model for caring for domestic violence victims," Mayor Giuliani said. "Two years ago, this Administration sought to end the cycle of domestic violence by radically changing the legal status quo which favors the hitter, not the battered women. This program is the latest initiative in our ongoing effort to turn the system in exactly the opposite direction. It helps get the abuser out of the home and provides a more rational and humane alternative to its victims."

"The present shelter system continues to victimize the victim," Ms. Mitchell said. "This program brings together both the public and private sectors to provide the support services necessary to empower victims and help them remain at home without fear."

-over-

The pilot program is a public - private partnership launched in coordination with St. Luke's Hospital and the 24th Precinct on the Upper West Side. Victims seeking eligibility to the program will be evaluated by the Victims Services Counselor in the Precinct, St. Luke's - Roosevelt Counselor and the New York County District Attorney's Office. The pilot will provide victims with a vast array of services, including:

- A state of the art security system monitored by trained agents and accompanied by a rapid and trained police response;
- A cellular telephone to provide victims with quick access to 911 when they are outside of the home;
- A support group to help victims break away from the abuser;

This pilot is the latest initiative in the Administration's two year fight against domestic violence. The Mayor noted the last year, the New York City Police Department raised police response to violations of orders of Protection from a priority level 5 to a priority level 2, providing victims with more rapid response. The only priority higher is an officer needing assistance.

Finally, the Mayor and Ms. Mitchell thanked the sponsors of the pilot program, including Protech, Kingalarm and Napco, which have all donated home alarm systems for each of the participants; Bell Atlantic Nynex Mobile which contributed 25 cellular phones; Young and Rubicam Advertising, which has continuously created advertisements to raise awareness about domestic violence on a pro-bono basis, the health Insurance Plan of Greater New York, which sponsored production of informational pamphlets and the Rite Aid Corporation, which has taken the lead in distributing posters and pamphlets in its drug stores throughout the community.

Posters and pamphlets about the "Alternative to Shelter" Program will be available in both Spanish and English at the following distribution points: St. Luke's - Roosevelt Hospital Rape Crisis and Crime Victims Assessment Program, the West Side Crime Prevention Program, the west Side Chamber of Commerce and the Amsterdam/Columbus Business Improvement District. For more information about domestic violence, please call the Mayor's Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-621-HOPE.