



End Abuse Long Beach

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www.EndAbuseLB.org

End Abuse Long Beach Proudly Announces its 2010 Award Recipients.

Long Beach, California – December 9, 2010, *End Abuse Long Beach*, the local Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Prevention Council, announces this year's Award Recipients: **Peggy Reyna**, Project Director at Peace over Violence; and the **Long Beach Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit**. The public is invited to join **End Abuse Long Beach** on Thursday, December 9th, 2010, from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at the Alpert Jewish Community Center, 3801 E. Willow Street, Long Beach CA 90815 as we honor and celebrate these extraordinary community members.

Peggy Reyna is the Project Director for the [Peace Over Violence](#) (formerly LACAAW) Deaf, Disabled & Elder Services Program, which includes the Right Response Collaborative and the "LoveMeNot" Anti-Stalking Project. Peggy holds a B.A. in Special Education with special emphasis on Deafness. Peggy is hard of hearing as a direct result of domestic violence she suffered; yet she turned her misfortune on its head to become a nationally recognized speaker in the fields of intimate partner violence, teen dating violence, child abuse, stalking and women's self-defense. Peggy has received numerous accolades for her work over a 25-year period:

- 1986: Peggy received a commendation from the Long Beach Police Department for Outstanding Service to the Community.
- 1990: Peggy received the City of Long Beach Award for Professional Woman of the Year.
- 1996: Peggy was chosen as a spokesperson for the National Domestic Violence Hotline kickoff at the White House.

Peggy has made numerous media and television appearances including "Good Morning America," "Southland Today," "L.A. In The Morning". In 1995, Peggy was a featured subject for KCET's "Life and Times;" in 1996, Peggy was the subject of an ABC Monday Night Movie of the Week ("Breaking Through") and in 2000 Peggy was a featured speaker in a domestic violence/stalking education video project with "Air Tokyo," which aired nationwide in Japan. Peggy currently serves as Director of Advocacy on the Board of Directors for African Continental Deaf Women Empowerment. She is an outspoken advocate for all child and adult survivors of abuse.

In September, 1992, after recognizing the unique needs of domestic violence-related investigations, Chief Bill Ellis of the Long Beach Police Department (LBPD) created a specialized **Domestic Violence Unit**, comprised of 4 detectives and one staff support to address these needs. Eventually, the unit evolved to its current staffing levels of one sergeant, 8 detectives, a two support personnel. The unit investigates criminal cases that occur within dating, romantic, marital or cohabiting relationships including same-sex relationships, as well as violations of protective court orders, and stalking. The unit currently investigates over 2,400 cases a year.

In 1998, under the guidance of the LBPD's Women's Advisory Group (WAG), the Domestic Violence (DV) Unit and WomenShelter of Long Beach formed a collaborative called the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) to provide 24-hour support services to victims when the police respond to the scene of 9-1-1 calls involving domestic violence. While the detective investigates the crime and secures the crime scene, the specially-trained WomenShelter advocate offers victims and their children shelter and support services. This successful collaboration has assisted more than 5,000 victims since the start of the program. In addition to the DART program, the DV Unit routinely collaborates with an array of community agencies, and participates in several collaborative efforts to assist victims of domestic violence and to help end the cycle of violence in our community.

The goal of the LBPD DV Unit is to hold batterers accountable for their actions and to reinforce that domestic violence is criminal behavior that will not be tolerated in our community. The unit strives to prevent violence in the home and offers referrals for immediate support services to victims of domestic violence.

End Abuse Long Beach (previously *The Long Beach Area Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Prevention Council*) is a voluntary group of professionals and concerned community members who work in some way with abused or neglected children, domestic violence victims or perpetrators, and their families. *End Abuse Long Beach* provides a monthly forum and sponsors related conferences for community members to learn, discuss, question, network and share ideas relating to the treatment and prevention of child abuse and domestic violence.