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Press Release

“Can we get a little RESPECT in the Awarding of Domestic Violence Funding?”

Prince George’s County, MARYLAND Tuesday, September 4, 2018: Can we get a little RESPECT in the [awarding of Domestic Violence Funding](#)?

According to a recent [Washington Post Article](#), Community Crisis Services will be taking over the only shelter for abused women.

So how does a [white male led organization](#) that focuses on suicide prevention and homelessness become the panacea for domestic violence in Prince George’s County?

REALLY? Is this happening in a majority black county which according to the [Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team’s 2016 findings](#), Prince George’s County has ranked 1st in the state in domestic violence homicides from 2009 - 2014 with 72 homicides? And, according to the [Maryland Judiciary Statistical Abstract 2017](#), protective order filings for the County are up 22% over the last 3 years while the County leads the State with [6,668 domestic violence protective order filings in 2017](#), representing **22% of the State total of 30,308**. We just can’t seem to get it right when it comes to Domestic Violence.

How can we get a little RESPECT?

[Community Crisis Services](#) is led by Timothy Jansen, the Executive Director, and according to the website, they focus on suicide hotlines, homelessness and protective services. We should also note over the last 7 years [Community Crisis Services received \\$527,000 in County funding](#) and this figure does not include Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) or other state funds they may have received.

And now our County government wants to get into the business of sole sourcing local public tax payer money for Domestic Violence from one entity, the Family Crisis Center to Community Crisis Services?

Why is this significant? Because by legislation, fees collected by the County for marriage licenses, which was \$385,000 last year, now goes to the [Family Crisis Center](#) (FCC) Under the new arrangement, those funds can flow to Community Crisis Services, who it appears is being positioned to be written into legislation to be recipients of the County marriage license funding due to [poor management at FCC](#).

This is not fair to other groups who are serving the domestic violence community--not to mention [Community Crisis Services](#) will probably get funded in FY 2019 out of the \$500,000 earmarked for domestic violence grants.

We raised concerns a year ago around the fairness in the distribution of [Domestic Violence funding](#) and those concerns still remain: (1) very little funding going to black women led organizations, (2) equity and fairness in the grant process, (3) no accountability of the funds and their impact, (4) the need for improved visibility and outreach efforts and, (5) more investment in innovative ways to tackle this problem.

We say, no more back room deals! Before any decisions are made about how to allocate our [domestic violence grant funding](#), we need to hold a public hearing and invite other organizations to the table--especially those most impacted by domestic violence--black women!

Can we get a little RESPECT?

Formed in 2011, the [PFC Coalition](#) is a nonprofit membership organization in Prince George's County with over 300 members. The mission is to develop the capacity of nonprofit and minority businesses by providing assessment, support and expansion services.

PFC Coalition recently formed the Coalition of Women Against Domestic Violence and Abuse (COWADVA) whose mission is to elevate awareness, increase advocacy, and generate action on behalf of those impacted by domestic violence and abuse.