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Press Release

“Coalition of Women Against Domestic Violence and Abuse to host Town Hall to address accountability of grant funding and inclusion of women organizations”

Prince George’s County, MARYLAND Wednesday, March 7, 2018: As Prince George's County leads the state in domestic violence homicides and number of protective orders filed, we want to ensure that grant funds awarded are making an impact on domestic violence in the county.

The Coalition of Women Against Domestic Violence and Abuse is a collaborative of women organizations across the county recently formed in partnership with the People for Change Coalition. The group has been meeting over the past 60 days to address concerns around domestic violence and abuse, and will host their 1st Town Hall on Thursday, March 8 from 6:30pm - 8:30pm at Southern Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 4444 Old Branch Avenue, Temple Hills, MD.

The purpose of the town hall is to introduce the new coalition, bring together stakeholders who are addressing domestic violence and abuse, bring attention to the need for more accountability of the grant process and how funds are awarded for domestic violence, and identify faith-based groups who want to start a program in their church.

One of our major concerns is that if the County is investing our tax dollars on [Domestic Violence Grants](#), are they being strategic, are we seeing measurable outcomes, and what is the impact?

Just recently [the Family Crisis Center](#), one of the grant recipients who received \$195,630 for FY 2017 and 2018, made headlines in the news as it, [was found to have deplorable conditions](#).

And, when you look at the grantees for the past two fiscal years, the majority of the funding went to the same 4-5 entities, and visibly

missing from the list were black women organizations. Why is that important? When you look at the statistics for Prince George's County, those most impacted by domestic violence are black women!

We also viewed [a video of other grant recipients](#) and noticed the following:

- Grant recipients unable to relate what category they applied for
- Weak outcomes and performance measures -- not able to tell us in an effective way what they did with the money
- No strategic plan for program implementation and spending of the funds
- A lot of the money going towards hiring of new staff or salaries
- Very little funding going towards direct services
- Duplication of services (for example: several groups had hotlines)
- Lack of innovation
- Groups headquartered outside the county (why are we not looking for entities inside the county to provide those needed services?)

So as we continue to meet and collaborate, we will focus on specific goals we have outlined, engage our elected officials, and be a collective voice for domestic violence and abuse.

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

Formed in 2011, the mission of the [PFC Coalition](#) is to develop the capacity of nonprofit and minority businesses by providing assessment, support and expansion services. We have become one of the largest and fastest growing nonprofit membership organizations in Prince George's County with over 300 members.

Below is a [link to the video](#) of the recipients of the 1st round of domestic violence grant funding.