



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CENTRAL CITY WEED & SEED AND GRAND RAPIDS POLICE DEPARTMENT
ANNOUNCE COMMUNITY PLANS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

Grand Rapids Police Chief Kevin Belk, South Service Area Captain Eric Payne, and Weed & Seed Site Director Kristine Jaros would like to invite the community to the official start of the Purple Ribbon Campaign, which will highlight October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

**News Conference – Purple Ribbon Campaign
Thursday, October 1, 2009 @ 11:00 a.m.
Grand Rapids Police Department
1 Monroe Center NW**

The Grand Rapids Police Department has taken an unprecedented step in support of the campaign by placing purple ribbon magnets on marked police cruisers, starting October 1, that will remain on the vehicles through the end of October. Purple ribbon posters, ribbons, and resource cards will also be distributed throughout the Central City Weed & Seed area and to Weed & Seed community partners.

In addition, to mark the beginning of Domestic Violence Awareness month, the YWCA will host the following:

Candlelight Vigil
Thursday, October 1, 2009
5:30pm – 6:15 p.m.
25 Sheldon Blvd SE, in downtown Grand Rapids

The occasion gives the Grand Rapids community an opportunity to remember the victims who have been taken from us and to let survivors know that they are not alone. The public is welcome. RSVPs are not required. After 5:00 p.m., parking is available in the Spectrum parking lot on the southeast corner of Sheldon and Weston (which is accessible from LaGrave). Metered street parking is also available. For more information, call Eileen at (616) 451-2744.

The Women and Violence Committee of Central City Weed & Seed would like to thank the GRPD for supporting Domestic Violence Awareness Month. By placing magnets on all of the marked police cruisers, the entire city of Grand Rapids will be made aware of the importance of the issues surrounding domestic violence and the support in the prevention and enforcement of the laws by the GRPD.

This issue affects everyone in the community, not just the victims. By banning together to raise awareness, the Grand Rapids community will be able to see that it is a problem that should not be tolerated and that there are resources for prevention, reporting, and counseling available. It also shows the commitment by the Grand Rapids Police Department to helping the community fight against domestic violence.