

**RESOLUTION OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND
SEXUAL ASSAULT COMMISSION NO. 2024-02**

LETHALITY ASSESSMENT FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Commission (“DVSA Commission”) has been established to address the critical issues of domestic violence and sexual assault within the city of Albuquerque, with a commitment to promoting prevention, intervention, and support services for survivors;

WHEREAS, the DVSA Commission is composed of seven voting members appointed by the Mayor, and fourteen advisory members designated by various agencies and relevant branches of government;

WHEREAS, the DVSA Commission shall, advise the Mayor and City Council concerning community domestic violence and sexual assault issues;

WHEREAS, the DVSA Commission recognizes the importance of comprehensive and survivor-centered approaches to addressing domestic violence and sexual assault, involving collaboration with relevant entities, including law enforcement and the fire department;

WHEREAS, the DVSA Commission acknowledges that first responders, including the Albuquerque Police Department (“APD”) and the Albuquerque Fire Rescue Department (“AFR”), play a crucial role in responding to domestic violence and sexual assault incidents;

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Commission - 02-21-2024
Proposal Resolution 2024-02 - Lethality Assessment for First Responders

WHEREAS, the DVSA Commission aims to enhance the effectiveness of first responder systems and improve the support provided to victims by recommending the implementation of a lethality assessment tool for first responders;

WHEREAS, the DVSA Commission has reviewed three (3) lethality assessment tools and identified that none of the three (3) tools sufficiently assess the lethality risk to determine whether someone is a victim or is at risk of re-assault;

WHEREAS, of the three (3) lethality assessment tools reviewed, the DVSA Commission has identified the DA-LE (with New Mexico specific information added) and the LAP 2.0 for further consideration;

WHEREAS, the lethality assessment tool should include questions addressing strangulation, the presence of guns in the home or as a threat to survivors, and identification of potential sexual assault, recognizing the urgency of these factors in assessing the risk and safety of survivors; and

WHEREAS, the DVSA Commission believes that incorporating these questions into a lethality assessment tool of first responders will contribute to a more comprehensive and survivor-centered approach in handling domestic violence and sexual assault cases;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the DVSA Commission, in fulfillment of its duties and powers as outlined in Section 2-6-18.4 of the Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Ordinance, hereby recommends the

implementation of a lethality assessment tool for first responders to be utilized in domestic violence and sexual assault incidents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the lethality assessment tool should include specific questions addressing strangulation, the presence of guns in the home or as a threat to survivors, and identification of potential sexual assault, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of risks and safety for survivors;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DVSA Commission will work collaboratively with relevant departments and agencies to facilitate the integration of the lethality assessment tool into the standard operating procedures of first responders, fostering a comprehensive and survivor-centered approach to domestic violence and sexual assault incidents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that at least (1) Chairperson of the DVSA Commission and at least (1) representative of the City's legal department should communicate this resolution to the Mayor and the City Council, urging their support and consideration for the implementation of a lethality assessment tool incorporating the questions set forth herein.

A. Notice of the completion of this delivery should be sent to the Associate Chief of Staff for Policy via email and a discussion of the meeting where this resolution was discussed will be added to the agenda for the next Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Commission which has yet to be published.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Commission - 02-21-2024
Proposal Resolution 2024-02 - Lethality Assessment for First Responders

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____ 2024

BY A VOTE OF ____ FOR and ____ AGAINST

Voting Members Absent:

BY:

Teresa Garcia
Chairperson of the Board