



DOWNTOWN **WOMEN'S** CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2022

Contact: Brook Hefner
310-902-6452
bhefner@actumllc.com

DOWNTOWN WOMEN'S CENTER STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH PEACE OVER VIOLENCE

Downtown Women's Center stands in solidarity with our long-term partner, Peace Over Violence, and all survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault whose care was violated this week when the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office searched the home of their Executive Director, Patti Giggans, removing her car and computer while also taking down the organization's server at the Peace Over Violence (POV) headquarters. The act of executing early morning search warrants at the homes of respected anti-violence leaders, including Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, in a case that has long ago been rejected by the District Attorney and other prosecuting agencies is an overreach.

The act of using power to inflict unwarranted harm against women and survivors served through such a well-regarded agency is chilling. This behavior mirrors the type of power and control tactics that POV has stood to combat for 50 years in our community as they provide essential education, prevention, advocacy, and services to thousands of survivors of violence. Moreover, it puts survivors at risk of ongoing harm, as by seizing POV's server law enforcement has access to some confidential client information and completely disrupted POV's ability to serve their clients. It also instills fear in the community of providers engaged with serving them.

There is no doubt that this is a result of Ms. Giggans' years of service on the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, where she has boldly called for law enforcement reform to uplift the voice of the community that she has served for over 50 years. Ms. Giggans is an indefatigable anti-violence advocate and with her strong team at POV they will continue to provide necessary care to survivors through this time. Downtown Women's Center will continue to partner with POV to ensure that we break the cycle of violence and serve the most vulnerable in our community.

About the Downtown Women's Center (DWC)

The Downtown Women's Center (DWC) is the only organization in Los Angeles focused exclusively on serving and empowering women experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless women. DWC envisions a Los Angeles with every woman housed and on a path to personal stability. Our mission is to end homelessness for women in greater Los Angeles through housing, wellness, employment, and advocacy. For more information, visit www.downtownwomenscenter.org.