



Rose Andom Center  
*One Place. Immeasurable Hope.*

April 26, 2017

Denver City Council Members  
1437 Bannock Street  
Denver, CO 80202  
c/o Skye Stuart and Debra Bartleson

Dear City Council Members:

On behalf of the Rose Andom Center, I urge you to support the proposed municipal sentencing reform ordinance. Under the current ordinances, defendants convicted of park curfew violations and petty theft can receive the same sentences as defendants convicted of third and subsequent domestic violence offenses. The disparity of such convictions is unfair and potentially dangerous.

Crimes of domestic violence charged at the municipal (vs. misdemeanor or felony) level are *not* “low risk.” In 2016, a victim in Denver was murdered by her abuser mere weeks after he was charged with a municipal domestic violence offense. Any crime in which the defendant has immediate, easy access to the victim – crimes that include domestic violence – put the victim at increased risk of subsequent and escalated harm. The City’s municipal code offers these victims the first level of protection. By addressing domestic violence and family violence offenders early and swiftly, beginning at the municipal ordinance level, we as a community can better prevent future injuries and homicides.

I appreciate the work done by the City Attorney’s Office to rectify the inequities in Denver’s municipal sentencing, in creating a tiered system, and continuing to protect victims of domestic violence. I encourage City Council members to adopt this sentencing reform ordinance on behalf of victims and all members of our community.

If you have any questions regarding my recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me at 720-337-4475.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Abrams*

Executive Director