

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 15, 2021**

**Contact:**

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**HarborCOV Partners with Chelsea Community to Offer Vigil to  
Raise Awareness About Domestic Violence**

HarborCOV, the local domestic violence program serving the Chelsea, Revere, East Boston, Winthrop and Charlestown area, and Chelsea community members will hold a candlelight vigil to raise awareness about the lethality of domestic violence on Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 10AM on the lawn of Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea.

The vigil will honor the loss of 48-year-old Paula Andrea Ortiz Ramirez, who passed on December 11<sup>th</sup> due to domestic violence. In addition, the vigil will raise awareness about domestic violence and honor the lives of the other 12 individuals whose lives were taken this year by domestic violence in Massachusetts.

“Domestic violence is everyone’s business and does not discriminate based on race, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. We must realize that this type of violence affects all of us, and we need to take a stand to support and educate our friends, neighbors, and families. Domestic violence is *our* business,” said Kourou Pich, Executive Director of HarborCOV.

The December 20<sup>th</sup> vigil will include local community leaders, residents, and domestic violence advocates such as leaders from Jane Doe Inc. (Massachusetts’ Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence), Chelsea City Hall, the Chelsea Police Department, MGH-HAVEN, the Zonta Club of Chelsea, the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office, and HarborCOV. The public is invited and encouraged to participate in raising awareness.

Given the risk for serious injury and death, HarborCOV encourages anyone who wonders if they are being abused to call for help before it escalates. As many as 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been victims of physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime, but abuse can also be emotional, verbal, financial, sexual and more. A call to our hotline can be a first step toward building clarity and working toward safety. Our multilingual, multicultural staff helps you connect to a whole community — not to judge the person you love, but to listen, to help you find options that make sense to you, and to support your right to be safe in your life.

To receive confidential help, call our hotline at 617-884-9909, and for more information about HarborCOV call our business office at 617-884-9799. For services in other parts of Massachusetts, visit [www.JaneDoe.org](http://www.JaneDoe.org).