Executive Order 2008-09

Continuing the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women (Supersedes Executive Order 2003-13)

WHEREAS, violence against women affects Arizonans of all races, ethnicities, religions and socioeconomic classifications; and

WHEREAS, nationally, one in three women have been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in their lifetime, usually by a family member or intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Arizona had 124 known deaths related to domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, nationally, ninety-two percent (92%) of women indicate that reducing domestic violence and sexual assault should be at the top of any formal efforts taken on behalf of women today; and

WHEREAS, witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor for transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next, increasing the chance of perpetuating the cycle of violence in adult relationships; and

WHEREAS, despite often going unreported, nationally, more than one in four women (26.5%) above the age of 65 have been the victim of physical, sexual or psychological violence by their spouse or intimate partner, and abuse of the elder and vulnerable adult population is increasing;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, hereby continue the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women (the "Commission") and order as follows:

1. The Commission shall:

   A. Consist of no fewer than 13 and no more the 19 members, each of whom shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve, without compensation, at the pleasure of the Governor. The Governor shall also appoint a chairperson who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

   B. Meet at the call of the Governor or the Commission Chair, but no fewer than four times per year.

   C. To the extent practicable, be comprised of a cross-section of Arizonans who provide ethnic, geographic, gender, age and socio-economic diversity.

   D. Include a Governor's designee, and others who demonstrate expertise in issues related to violence against women; in addition, it may include ex-officio members representing state agencies, including the Arizona Department of Economic Security, the Arizona Attorney General's Office and the Arizona Department of Health Services.

E. Work with entities throughout the State to increase awareness about the issues of violence against women.

F. Provide a forum for addressing input from the community and respond to new information on violence against women.

G. Continue to oversee the implementation and progress of the Domestic and Sexual Violence State Plan, and revise this State Plan as needed.

H. Provide a report to the Governor regarding the activities and outcomes of the Commission by January 31, 2009 and annually thereafter.

I. Sunset on December 31, 2011, unless extended by future Executive Order.

2. The Commission may establish sub-committees at the discretion of the Chair to work on issues related to violence against women. Sub-committees may include interested members of the community who are not Commission members. The Chair shall recommend community members of the sub-committees, but they shall be approved by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Governor.

3. Members of the Commission may, with the Governor's permission, send designees to serve on the Commission; provided, however, that such designees shall have been delegated by the member with full authority to vote and otherwise act on behalf of the member.

4. The Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women shall sunset effective December 31, 2015.

5. This Executive Order supersedes Executive Order 2003-13.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this ___ day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-second.

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE