



## **WASHTENAW COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF Trained Police Response to Domestic Violence Calls and Enforcement of Firearm Surrender Orders**

*Passed by the WCDP General Membership on April 25, 2022*

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence may consist of physical, mental, verbal, financial, sexual, and/or litigation abuse designed to create a system of power and control over the victim, *and*

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is a chronic and worsening public health crisis, harming millions of people every year, and costing billions of dollars in physical and mental health care, property damage, lost wages, incarceration, and court expenses, *and*

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is the leading cause of injury and homicide in women in the United States, and trends suggest that at least 2,300 U.S. women will be murdered by their intimate partners in 2022, *and*

**WHEREAS**, guns are a key instrument of terror and coercive control of women and children in their own homes: women are five times more likely to be murdered by an intimate partner when the partner has access to a firearm, *and*

**WHEREAS**, in Michigan, there is no enforcement mechanism to recover firearms that were ordered surrendered by a judge and not consensually turned over to local police. This includes judicial orders stemming from the probate court (mental health orders), in personal protection matters (aka: restraining orders), and in criminal cases in matters of bond or sentencing, *and*

**WHEREAS**, the most dangerous time for a victim, and the time she is most likely to be murdered, is when she first attempts to leave her abuser, *and*

**WHEREAS**, the presence of intervenors from outside the home threatens the power and control dynamic present in every intimate partner violence incident, challenging the authority of the perpetrator and often leading to an escalation of violence by the perpetrator, *and*

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence calls are the most dangerous incidents for police who intervene, accounting for a plurality of law enforcement officer deaths every year,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Washtenaw County Democratic Party calls on municipal elected leaders to strongly support the development of policies and procedures to ensure that firearms are actually surrendered when a PPO banning possession is issued, ensuring law enforcement has the ability to enforce said orders when appropriate and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Washtenaw County Democratic Party calls on county commissioners and elected municipal leaders to ensure that domestic violence incidents are approached with utmost care, that people calling dispatch for law enforcement response in domestic violence incidents do have law enforcement dispatched to assist them, and that law enforcement responders have the necessary skills and training to help minimize any likelihood of further harm when they respond to calls for service.