Judge\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

In 2015, there were 65,487 incidents of domestic violence reported to law enforcement in the state of Georgia. Even more tragic, are the 1,671 known domestic violence homicides that occurred in Georgia between 2003 and 2016. The impact of domestic violence is tremendous on our communities. Children are affected by it, whether they experience physical abuse themselves, or they witness their caretaker being abused.

The Georgia Commission on Family Violence has been working for years to help communities establish local Family Violence Task Forces (FVTFs). This is not only something we strongly believe in, but is also a charge that we have been given by the Georgia State Legislature:

*O.C.G.A. 19-13-31*

*There is created a State Commission on Family Violence, which shall be responsible for developing a comprehensive state plan for ending family violence. This plan shall include the initiation, coordination, and oversight of the implementation of family violence laws and the establishment in each judicial circuit of a Community Task Force on Family Violence. These task forces shall be supported by and work in collaboration with the state commission. (Code 1981, O.C.G.A. 19-13-31, enacted by Ga.L 1992, p.1810, 1.)*

A coordinated community response is essential to providing safety for victims of family violence and ensuring the accountability of batterers. In order to foster a coordinated community response, FVTFs use projects including conducting fatality reviews, implementing protocols, developing domestic violence courts, engaging the faith-based community, leading public awareness campaigns, sponsoring law enforcement training, coordinating victim rights events, working with batterer’s intervention programs (FVIPs), and developing resources for victims, service providers, and perpetrators.

**Many of the citizens of the (*Name of Circuit or County*) have already expressed an interest in forming a Family Violence Task Force. Please join us at a meeting hosted by the (*Family Violence Task Force Name*), on (*Date*) from (*Time*). The meeting will be held at (*Location*).**

If you have any questions, please contact (***Task Force Contact Name***) at (***Contact Information***).

Sincerely,

Jennifer Thomas

Executive Director

Georgia Commission on Family Violence