

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the  
Regular meeting of Richmond  
City Council held on Monday,  
November 26, 2018.

**Presentation to Richmond City Council  
Monday, November 26, 2018**

Mayor Brodie and Councillors, thank you so much for allowing me to present at this evening's City Council meeting. My name is Roz Johns and I am a member of the Greater Van Grandmothers Advocacy Network and Richmond Grandmothers Advocacy Network or Richmond GRAN. Mary Spoke and Penny Lewis also from GV GRAN and Richmond GRAN and De Whelan representing the Richmond Canadian Federation of University Women-RCFUW are present and wearing the colour orange.

**Our goal this evening is to:**

- present information about the UN End Violence Against Women #HearMeToo Orange Campaign that takes place each year between Nov. 25 the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Dec. 10 the UN International Human Rights Day.

**Our Ask is that City Council:**

- proclaim the 16 Days between November 25 and December 10, 2018 as "Orange Days: End Violence Against Women and Girls" in the City of Richmond and
- support the Orange Campaign by wearing orange, an orange ribbon and by "Oranging" City Buildings.

**Key Messages of this campaign include:**

- sexual and gender-based violence is one of the most pervasive and egregious human rights violations;
- intimate partner violence and sexual violence is a major public health problem and a violation of women's human rights;
- violence can negatively affect women's physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health, and may increase the risk of acquiring HIV in some settings;
- many older women are subjected to physical, and psychological violence, verbal and financial abusive practices, neglect and in many countries including sub Saharan Africa, denial of wife inheritance;
- changing the focus from questioning the credibility of the victim, to pursuing the accountability of the perpetrator as stated by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women.

The Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability reported that in Canada between January and June 2018, 61 women were killed by acts of violence. The Canadian Women's Foundation reports that 80% of women believe they are just as likely or more likely to experience sexual assault in the future. The United Nations reports that worldwide 120 million women have experienced sexual violence. The many statistics available are staggering. This afternoon I received a report published by the British Broadcasting Company (BBC). It stated that an average of 137 women across the world are killed by a partner or family member every day, according to new data released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). They say it makes "the home the most likely place for a woman to be killed". More than half of the 87,000 women killed in 2017 were reported as dying at the hands of those closest to them. Of that figure, approximately 30,000 women were killed by an intimate partner and another 20,00 by a relative. Sadly, statistics for women 49 years and over are not available in numerous countries including sub Saharan Africa. Their cries are not heard. It is time to End Violence Against Women.

The Orange Campaign seeks to raise awareness about Violence Against Women and bring people together to challenge abusive behaviours. These abuses often go unreported and therefore are not

dealt with. Women are frightened to report violence against themselves for fear of fatal reprisal, the stigma borne by the victim and not the perpetrator, not being believed and the lack of agency and access. The voices of victims are silenced and the true extent of these horrific experiences are masked. Movements such as #MeToo have given voice to the stories told by victims of violence, raised awareness and the need for action. UN history shows us that working together as a collective voice, we can effect constructive actions and positive change and this includes Ending Violence Against Women.

Across the country, communities are “Oranging” to help raise awareness and amplify the voices of victims of violence so that their stories are listened to and heard. Last night Vancouver’s Science World Dome and BC Place lit up in Orange. Vancouver City Hall will light up in Orange on Nov. 27. In the past, Vancouver, Toronto, Hamilton, Burlington, Oakville, Mississauga, Peterborough, Brighton, Cobourg, Montreal, Halifax and Fredericton City Halls, the BC Legislature in Victoria, buildings in Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, New Westminster and Surrey, the Calgary Tower, Saskatoon’s Prairies Wind Tower and the Toronto Sign glowed in Orange and some places lit up for the entire 16 days. Mayors of Vancouver, Victoria, Coquitlam, Calgary, Saskatoon, Toronto, Ottawa, Peterborough, Oakville and Fredericton made official proclamations or statements of support by video or in person. Council members in many municipalities wore orange for the occasion and during the 16 Days.

We ask that Richmond City Council lead the way in “Oranging” the community of Richmond. Wear orange, wear an orange ribbon, proclaim in the City of Richmond, the 16 Days November 25 to December 10, 2018 as “Orange Days: End Violence Against Women and Girls” and make Richmond City Hall glow in Orange. Let’s “END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.”

In the words of Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women on the occasion of the Nov. 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, we want to honour and further amplify voices, whether a housewife at home, a schoolgirl abused by her teacher, an office secretary, a sportswoman, or a boy who is an intern in a business and bring them together across locations and sectors in a global movement of solidarity.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to seeing “Orange” at City Hall and in the City of Richmond.