

MICHAEL S. RAWLINGS

MAYOR



CITY OF DALLAS

March 20, 2013

Dear Arts Leader,

Last month, I began speaking out against the senseless, horrific acts of domestic violence taking place in our city. I was shaken by several recent incidents—four women murdered at the hands of men due to domestic violence. The scope of this tragic crime is growing. In the span of one year—from 2011 to 2012—the number of Dallas murders related to domestic violence doubled. Overwhelmingly, 85% of these violent acts involve a man attacking a wife, girlfriend or partner.

This isn't only a Dallas problem or even just a North Texas problem. It's a worldwide epidemic. But in order for significant change to occur, we must address this issue here at home.

As leaders of the city's thriving arts community, I am hoping you will join me and thousands of other men this Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. at Dallas City Hall Plaza. It is critical that we all stand together in honoring the women in our lives—our wives and partners, our mothers and sisters, our daughters, our friends. We must let the world know, enough is enough.

Dallas has always been known as a city of leaders. I'm asking you to join me in leading the way in our nation and the world, by demanding that the men of Dallas put an end to domestic violence. Please join me in promising the following:

- I will never commit an act of violence against women.
- I will hold abusive men accountable for their heinous actions and help them seek counseling.
- I will speak out against domestic violence and promote domestic violence awareness.
- I will teach my daughters, sisters, nieces and granddaughters that they never have to accept violence in a relationship, and teach my sons, brothers, nephews and grandsons that violence is an unacceptable way to express anger or displeasure.

I am also asking you to join me at this unique event—and bring 20 more men—to help us send a strong message with our numbers and our collective voices. Reach out to your boards, your staff, your patrons, your churches, your family, neighbors and friends.

Again, the rally is **Saturday, March 23 at 10:00 a.m.** at Dallas City Hall Plaza (1500 Marilla Street). More details are at www.dallasmenagainstabuse.com.

Thank you in advance for your support. I look forward to seeing you there.

Best regards,



Michael S. Rawlings
Mayor