

For Immediate Release

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**Belleville Police Department Seeks Volunteers for Domestic Violence
Response Team: Applications Available for Spring Training Session**

(Belleville, NJ) – Belleville Police Department, in conjunction with The Rachel Coalition and The Safe House, has a team of specially-trained volunteer advocates available to meet confidentially with victims of domestic violence at police headquarters 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. The volunteer advocates, who are civilian members of the community, work in conjunction with the police to provide support, information, and referrals to victims of domestic violence at police headquarters. The advocates also discuss with the victim their legal rights in regard to obtaining a Temporary Restraining Order. DVRT advocates are not trained to provide hotline services. The volunteer advocates are trained to empower victims to make decisions about their own lives.

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Applicants must be 21 years of age or older, have access to transportation, be willing to serve on an on-call shift basis, and submit to background investigations and fingerprinting. The 40-hour intensive mandatory training course will be provided to successful applicants. The Rachel Coalition will be conducting a training beginning Spring 2017 in the Montclair area. Prior knowledge of domestic violence is not required. The Belleville Police Department and the Rachel Coalition are committed to culturally diverse teams to better serve the community. Bi-lingual capability is a plus.

To request a DVRT application, please contact **Lt. Nick Breiner, Belleville Police Department, at (973) 450-3352.**

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, you can stop by Belleville Police Headquarters, 152 Washington Avenue, at any time, and ask to speak to a domestic violence Crisis Response Team advocate. In an emergency, dial 9-1-1.

The Rachel Coalition is an Essex County County-based not-for-profit organization whose mission is the prevention of domestic violence. If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, you can call the Safe House Confidential Domestic Violence Hotline at **973-759-2154**, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. For more information about The Rachel Coalition and The Safe House, visit www.jfsmetrowest.org.

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