

## Shine the Light on Domestic Violence

Governor David A. Paterson observed Domestic Violence Awareness Month in New York by kicking off the “Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” campaign. He was joined by Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer, Executive Director of the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) Amy Barasch, Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson and Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein at a lighting ceremony at the Empire State Building. The tower lights will shine purple to symbolize the courage of domestic violence survivors and raise awareness about the prevalence and harm of domestic violence.

“We have made great strides in our work to end abuse. However, with more than 400,000 domestic incidents reported to New York State law enforcement last year – and research indicating that the actual number of incidents could be twice that – there is more progress to be made,” Governor Paterson said. “We know that abuse needs darkness to thrive. That is why we shine the light on domestic violence and stand united in the fight against it. We must continue to raise awareness, pass the legislation that better protects victims, hold offenders accountable and make education a central part of prevention.”

Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer said: “This is an opportunity to send a message to the thousands of families in our city living under a cloud of domestic violence. For too long, this epidemic has hidden under shadows and behind closed doors. I applaud Governor Paterson and the Empire State Building for teaming up to meet the challenge of Domestic Violence Awareness Month with Empire

State proportions. Tonight we turn the largest beacon in our city into a shining light for every home affected by violence.”

Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence Executive Director Amy Barasch said: “The purple lights across New York City and the entire State serve to bring domestic violence out of the darkness, and show victims and survivors that we all acknowledge what they’ve experienced and are dedicated to working together to make sure the future will be brighter. For all New Yorkers, it’s a call to act. Each of us – citizens, businesses, co-workers, family and friends – can do something to help put an end to domestic violence.”

“Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” is an OPDV campaign and part of New York’s observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Landmarks across the State will turn purple to symbolize the courage of domestic violence survivors and raise awareness about the prevalence and harm of domestic violence. Among the participating landmarks are: Niagara Falls; Peace Bridge in Erie County; the Mid-Hudson Bridge in Dutchess County; the Hutchinson Metro Center; the Intrepid Sea Air & Space Museum; the Con Edison Clock Tower in Manhattan; 7 World Trade Center; the Virgin Records sign in Times Square; 601 Lexington Avenue; JC Penney at the Manhattan Mall; the Bronx Supreme Court; the Bronx County Building; and Brooklyn Borough Hall.

The observance is part of Gov-

