

January 2010 Proclaimed Stalker Awareness Month

Written by The Office of the Commissioners
Tuesday, 26 January 2010 11:33

Kittanning, PA – January 7, 2010 Commissioners sign proclamation supporting HAVIN and Stalker Awareness Month.

Armstrong County Commissioners signed a proclamation supporting January 2010 as National Stalker Awareness Month. Ms. Laurie Johns, an Armstrong County HAVIN Outreach and Education Coordinator, attended the meeting to accept the proclamation.

Ms. Johns described some of the various methods HAVIN utilizes to assist victims of stalking; One of the newest tools is a kit that enables victims to document the dates, times and instances of being stalked, it includes a cell phone that is programmed for emergency calls only and a disposable camera. Ms. Johns also described a new service provided by a third party that will protect a victim's physical location, the service will accept any mail, or messages, process them and forward them to the victim, all the while keeping the victim's physical location confidential. She also reminded everyone that HAVIN is available to assist in legal matters.

Statistics show that nearly one point five million people will be stalked annually in the United States; equaling 1 in 12 women and 1 in 45 men in their lifetimes. While we mostly hear about celebrity stalking, the majority of victims are stalked by someone they know, usually an intimate or formerly intimate partner.

Ms. Johns expressed her appreciation to the Board of Commissioners and members of the community for their continued support of HAVIN and the programs that they offer. Commissioner Kirkpatrick, a former employee of HAVIN, recalled in the past how difficult it was to assist the victims that they sheltered. She explained that when HAVIN was formed it did not have many of the laws and technology that is available today. She asked anyone who was able to donate, to please consider HAVIN when making charitable contributions.

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