

## JUNE P.I.P. REPORT

On June 21, HPD's Positive Interaction Program presenter was Sgt. Melissa Holbrook with the Special Crimes Division assigned to the District Attorney's Office. Holbrook's program was "Family Violence", which accounts for 22,000 HPD reports per year, and 40,000 Harris County cases. In 90% of these cases it is violence by an adult male committed against an adult female. In 2009 there were 111 women killed by their domestic partners in Houston.

Holbrook stressed that domestic violence is prevalent across all sectors of race, geography and economic class in Houston. It ends in one of three ways: either the abuser is stopped, the victim leaves, or the abuser kills the victim. If you suspect a friend or neighbor is a victim of domestic violence, there are six helpful things you can say to that person:

- 1) I am afraid for your safety.
- 2) I am afraid for the safety of your children.
- 3) It will only get worse.
- 4) I am here for you.
- 5) You don't deserve to be abused.
- 6) It is not your fault.

Law enforcement officials are trying to look at warning signs to intervene before violence escalates. You need not be the victim to report suspected domestic violence. Friends and neighbors may report it, and law enforcement may file charges without the victim's participation if the evidence is present. The Westside unit can be reached by phoning 281-584-4900, the Central unit's phone is 713-308-1100, and the National Domestic Violence Hotline is 1-800-799-SAFE.

HPD crime statistics are available online by beat. If you wish to read the statistics for Ashford Hollow and our neighbors on your computer, go to <http://www.houstontx.gov/police/cs/beatpages/cs20g40.htm>