



Loudoun County, Virginia

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**Phyllis J. Randall**

Chairwoman At Large

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **THE WOMEN OF THE LOUDOUN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO HOST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SENSITIVITY TRAINING ON APRIL 1**

LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA March 1, 2022—Emphasizing their commitment to support domestic violence victims, Loudoun County Chairwoman Phyllis J. Randall, Algonkian District Supervisor Juli E. Briskman, Leesburg District Supervisor Kristen Umstatted and Broad Run District Supervisor Sylvia Glass are hosting a new and innovative sensitivity training for those who work with victims across agencies and non-profits in the county.

The Silence No More (SNM) sensitivity training developed by advocate Lisa Jones is a hands-on educational experience that will focus on strengthening community support systems for survivors of domestic violence.

“It is critical that those working with Domestic Violence Victims have a clear understanding of the trauma these victims and their children have endured. We need to find ways to remove the barriers that prevent victims from receiving assistance in an efficient, streamlined manner” Randall said. “This training will offer insights and information to assist domestic violence victims, to become domestic violence survivors.”

“Lisa Jones is a survivor and selfless advocate who knows exactly what it takes to navigate an escape from violence and abuse that often traps victims in what can seem like an endless cycle,” Briskman said. “I’m proud to be co-hosting this innovative event in Algonkian District where we can truly begin to understand what it takes to support those in need and to end the cycle.”

The inaugural training will take place at Northern Virginia Community College in Sterling and includes role play scenarios, true stories about navigating the criminal justice system, and impactful discussions that help participants understand what a survivor experiences as they move into the next steps of recovery, healing and independence.

“Having first-hand experience with a relative who was a victim of domestic abuse opened my eyes to the difficulties women and children face while trying to escape. This training will provide invaluable insights so we as a community can serve this vulnerable group,” Broad Run Supervisor Glass said.

Local community and victim advocate, Jones developed SNM 12 years ago and her mission is to prepare the community to fight against the domestic and sexual violence that occurs every 20 seconds in our nation.

“This training is meant to forge better understanding of victim’s lived experiences and trauma so our system can work effectively for everyone,” Jones said. “Only until we work together as a community, help strengthen support systems, and continually educate ourselves on silent warning signs, will we see a decrease in the average number of abuse victims we each encounter on a daily basis.”

Jones’ goal to host the sensitivity training quarterly, starting with this inaugural session on April 1, 2022, at the Loudoun campus of NVCC. Participants will include local government officials and public service organizations engaged in domestic violence response efforts.

“Advocates should help victims establish psychological and financial independence from their abusers. No one should stay with an abuser because she or he fears loss of income,” Leesburg Supervisor Kristen Umstatt said.

Although this session is for local and state elected officials, local and state support staffs, Commonwealth Attorney’s and their staffs and nonprofit and faith-based leaders who work in the DV space, future sessions will be open to the general public. For more information, please email Chair Randall’s Legislative Aide for Behavior & Community Health.

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