



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**COUNCILMEMBER KORETZ (CD5) CONTACT:** [Alison.Simard@lacity.org](mailto:Alison.Simard@lacity.org), 213-473-7005

**COUNCILWOMAN MARTINEZ (CD6) CONTACT:** [Gabriella.Landeros@lacity.org](mailto:Gabriella.Landeros@lacity.org), 213-473-7006

**COUNCILWOMAN RODRIGUEZ (CD7) CONTACT:** [Tran.Le@lacity.org](mailto:Tran.Le@lacity.org), 213-473-7007

## **LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBERS OUTRAGED BY FEDERAL NARROWING OF DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TO FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR CRIMES**

### **City of Los Angeles Requests Report on Potential Impacts to Federally-Funded Anti-Domestic Violence Programs**

**February 1, 2019 – Los Angeles, CA** – Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz (CD5), Councilwoman Nury Martinez (CD6) and Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez (CD7) expressed outrage today in reaction to news that the Trump administration quietly narrowed the definition of “domestic violence” on the Department of Justice website, introducing a Resolution calling for the City to oppose any administrative action and/or legislation that would limit the definition of domestic violence to only felony or misdemeanor crimes. In addition, they also introduced a motion asking for reports from the Police Department with the assistance of the City Attorney, on any impacts the newly restricted definition might have to the City’s federally-funded anti-domestic violence programs.

“This is an outrage,” said Councilmember Paul Koretz, “that the narrowing of these definitions of domestic violence would clearly disqualify thousands of victims from protection is horrifying enough but to quietly make these changes and thereby discredit their complaints and remove the qualifications for recovery and aid is unconscionable.”

Councilwoman Nury Martinez said, “The Trump administration has seen fit to reduce the Justice Department’s definition of domestic violence from a page to a paragraph. Gone is any mention of sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological abuse. It’s almost as if 50 years of hard-fought activism and progress on how we talk about domestic violence has been thrown out the window. Deleting these words turns a blind eye to the ugly realities that victims face on a daily basis, and is an attempt to normalize the type of behavior and attitude that President Trump himself demonstrated in those Access Hollywood tapes. We on the Los Angeles City Council are here to say: Not on our watch. We will not go backward. I will not stand for a world where my daughter will grow up to know less about the definition of domestic violence than I do. It is simply unacceptable.”

“This administration is rolling back decades of women’s rights,” said Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, “narrowing the definition will hurt victims and stop them from being able to access the resources and protections they need.”

###