

## The Interfaith Committee on Intimate Partner Violence

Minutes for April 15, 2025

- I. Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Bernita Walker. Present were Co-chair Varsha N., Co-Chair Cecelia Walker, Virginia Becerra, Clara Chang, Shacobi Heron, Takiya McCullar, Karina Padilla, Jasmine Sanchez, Tina Rios, Maria Sahara (Sanchez), Diane Hong, Elia Phillips, Ashley Phillips
- II. Attendees were invited to introduce themselves, Title, Organization Affiliation, and identify their favorite type of weather, and why?
- III. Guest Speaker: Start by Believing! Co-Chair Varsha N. provided a Presentation in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The interactive presentation related the experiences of domestic violence/sexual assault survivors of diverse cultural, and interfaith backgrounds, when they courageously choose to disclose the abuse.  
Rather than beginning with judgement, criticism, and doubting the validity of the survivor's experience, the Speaker encouraged all to renew our commitment to Start by Believing.  
The Start by Believing Proclamation was approved by unanimous vote with attendees pledging to (1) start by believing when someone reports abuse or sexual assault, (2) support survivors on their road to justice and healing, and (3) help end the silence around abuse/sexual assault.

[Start By Believing – Ending the Cycle of Silence in Sexual Assault](#)

IV. New, Critical, Emerging Issues: None

V. Follow-up from previous meeting: None

VI. Next Steps and action items: None

VII. Matters not posted on the agenda: None

VIII. Public Comments: not to exceed two minutes per person and must be on items of interest which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Council

IX. Reminder to complete our DVC Monthly Meeting Evaluation Survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C8MC8V9>

X. Next meeting: June 17, 2025 virtual.

XI. Adjournment