April 24, 2020 Update (#82)

To: All Residents & Board Members

From: Charles H. Greenthal Management Corp.

Re: Governor Cuomo Announces New Domestic Violence Text Program & Online Service

The state and assorted agencies have reported a dangerous increase in reports of domestic violence since the initiation of the P.A.U.S.E. "stay at home mandate" – put in place to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

In response to this, Governor Cuomo announced the "immediate modernization of the state's domestic violence hotline" which has now been upgraded to include a new text program and confidential hotline service to aid victims of abuse.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and the necessary statewide implementation of "social distancing" protocols, domestic violence victims have become more vulnerable and unsafe while isolated at home with potential abusers. Calls to the state's domestic violence hotline have gone up by 30% since the start of April. State police have also reported an increase in calls by 15% since March, when compared to last year.

The intention behind this new program is to improve the ability of victims of abuse to contact the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and obtain the help they need in as timely a fashion as possible.



## New Yorkers seeking help can now

- text 844-997-2121 or
- chat with a professional on the new confidential website at <u>www.opdv.ny.gov</u>.

The text and online services will be staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with OPDV staff who are experts in the area of domestic violence.