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July 13, 2026

Stacey Riley, CEO
Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence
P.O. Box 333
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

RE: Letter of Commitment - OVW FY 2026 Justice for Families Program

Dear Stacey:

The Diamondhead Municipal Court is pleased to provide this Letter of Commitment in support of the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence's (GCCFN) application for funding under the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) FY 2026 Justice for Families Program. The Diamondhead Municipal Court recognizes the significant impact that domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, child abuse, and related crimes have on victims, children, families, and the community. The Court further recognizes that meaningful collaboration among courts, victim service providers, legal advocates, supervised visitation providers, culturally specific organizations, and offender intervention programs is essential to improving safety and access to justice for survivors and their children.

The Court understands that GCCFN is leading a collaborative project designed to strengthen court and community responses to family violence, improve access to civil legal assistance and advocacy services, enhance offender accountability, expand supervised visitation and safe exchange services, and increase access to culturally responsive services for underserved populations throughout the Mississippi Gulf Coast region. The Court fully supports the goals and objectives of this project.

If funding is awarded, the Diamondhead Municipal Court commits to serving as an active project partner and agrees to contribute the following resources and activities throughout the project period:

- Authorize and support the participation of the Municipal Court in the OVW FY 2026 Justice for Families Project.
- Designate judges, court administrators, clerks, and other appropriate personnel to participate in project meetings, collaborative planning, protocol development, policy review, training, and systems improvement activities.
- Support implementation of referral pathways between the Municipal Court and the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, Boat People SOS, Alternative Sentencing and Probation (ASAP), the Northcutt Legal Clinic, and other project partners to improve access to victim advocacy, legal services, and other supportive resources.



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- Facilitate participation of Municipal Court personnel in High-Risk Team meetings and multidisciplinary coordination activities, when appropriate.
- Promote court-based victim advocacy, legal advocacy referrals, and offender accountability efforts that improve victim safety and access to justice.
- Participate in specialized training related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, child abuse, trauma-informed court practices, lethality and risk assessment, culturally responsive services, and the needs of underserved populations.
- Participate in reviewing court procedures, practices, and protocols to identify opportunities to improve victim safety, offender accountability, access to justice, and court responsiveness in family violence cases.
- Promote awareness among court personnel regarding available victim services, culturally specific services, legal advocacy resources, and community-based support available through project partners.
- Support the collection and sharing of aggregate, non-confidential information necessary for project evaluation and performance reporting, consistent with applicable laws, court rules, and confidentiality protections.

The Diamondhead Municipal Court has participated in discussions regarding the proposed project, understands the roles and responsibilities of the project partners as outlined in the Justice for Families Memorandum of Understanding, and agrees to participate in good faith in implementing project activities. Although formal execution of the Memorandum of Understanding requires approval through municipal processes that cannot be completed within the grant application timeframe, the Court affirms its commitment to fulfilling the responsibilities identified for participating municipal courts if funding is awarded and will execute the Memorandum of Understanding upon receipt of the necessary local approvals.

Because execution of a formal Memorandum of Understanding requires approval through municipal processes that cannot be completed within the grant application timeframe, the Diamondhead Municipal Court submits this Letter of Commitment in accordance with OVW Justice for Families Program requirements and confirms its intent to participate fully in the proposed project if funding is awarded.

The Diamondhead Municipal Court values its partnership with GCCFN and the other members of the Justice for Families Collaborative and looks forward to continuing our shared efforts to improve outcomes for victims, children, and families throughout the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Hayes Johnson
Diamondhead Municipal Court