

# CHICAGO SAYS NO MORE

TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

## **FOR JILL MORRIS, NATIONAL NO MORE CAMPAIGN**

*Please use the following statement as you see fit for the national No More announcement*

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### **Statement by Kristie Paskvan about plans for Chicago Says No More**

“Everybody gets a wake-up call. Mine was the shooting tragedy at Nordstrom on North Michigan Avenue in Chicago last November, when Nadia Ezaldein was murdered by her ex-boyfriend,” said Kristie Paskvan, CFO of Mesirow Financial, whose office is near the shopping center.

“The problem is that this happens every day in many different kinds of places and within families in all social and economic groups where it doesn’t always garner the same amount of attention. The level of incidence is alarming. I realized domestic violence thrives when people turn a blind eye—making excuses, not wanting to get involved. This tragedy has become my catalyst for taking a stand,” added Paskvan.

Last December, Paskvan convened a meeting of decision-makers for leading nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping people experiencing domestic violence. “Their response convinced me we should establish a way for everyone to work together,” said Paskvan. Inspired by the national No More campaign, the group formed Chicago Says No More, with Paskvan serving as its chairperson.

According to Paskvan, Chicago Says No More will launch in late April 2015 during an evening reception at CBS 2 Chicago (WBBM TV) where business and civic leaders will declare their support. Currently, fundraising is underway to underwrite Chicago Says No More’s communication outreach program. Ultimately, funds raised will be designated by Paskvan and the steering committee to create new ways for participating organizations to help victims.

The website for Chicago Says No More will go live on the day of the April event. The site’s initial purpose is to increase the conversation about domestic violence and sexual assault by asking Chicagoans to reject the silence and stigma surrounding the issue and say, “No More.” When individuals pledge to join other Chicagoans in saying “No More,” they can opt to have their names publicly posted. “We expect a tremendous response to this opportunity to take a stand. Our social media outreach quickly will connect people who share our conviction about raising our voices as a first step in reducing the incidence of domestic violence and sexual assault,” stated Paskvan.

CBS 2 Chicago, the lead media partner for Chicago Says No More, is producing vignettes that the station will air.

For more information about Chicago Says No More, call 773.239.2220.

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