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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:**

Daniel Holloway

**Tel:** 650-522-3948 / **Cell:** 415-994-5374

[danielh@corasupport.org](mailto:danielh@corasupport.org)

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## **MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL MUST LEAD THE WAY IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICY ENFORCEMENT**

*MLB has a responsibility to show baseball, the sporting world and the nation  
that domestic violence will not be tolerated.*

**SAN MATEO, CA** – On October 31<sup>st</sup>, Jose Reyes, shortstop for the Colorado Rockies, was arrested for assaulting his wife in a Hawaii hotel. All eyes immediately turned to Major League Baseball to see how the league would react, especially in light of the new domestic violence policy they released in August of this year.

San Mateo's only comprehensive domestic violence agency, CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse), is calling on Major League Baseball to set the example that domestic violence will not be tolerated in professional sports.

"Major League Baseball has been put in a very powerful position," says CORA Executive Director, Melissa Lukin. "They have the ability – the responsibility – to show professional sports and our nation that domestic violence is a crime and it will not be tolerated."

Holding athletes accountable for domestic violence has been noticeably and tragically lacking over the past year. "We were heart-broken by the NFL's inaction," Lukin goes on to say. "The NFL doesn't seem to take the issue too seriously. Ray Rice only received punishment after video of the violence came out. Greg Hardy is still on the field, as are Jonathan Dwyer, Brandon Marshall, Erik Walden ... the list goes on."

Lukin calls on Major League Baseball to interrupt this trend right now and set the right example. "They need to say firmly and without waver that you cannot abuse your partner and stay in professional sports. No more hard talk with little action. No more initial suspensions that are then reduced. No more 'well, *technically* he wasn't charged.' No more looking the other way.

"We're calling on Major League Baseball to assume responsibility as role models and address this critical human rights issue. We look up to our sports figures. Holding them accountable is the right thing to do and is essential to changing the course of domestic violence in our communities."

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### **About CORA**

**CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse)** provides safety, support and healing for individuals who experience abuse in an intimate relationship, and educates the community to break the cycle of domestic violence. The only agency in San Mateo County with the sole purpose of serving victims and survivors of domestic abuse, CORA provides confidential emergency, intervention and prevention services, including the County's only emergency shelters, as well as a 24-hour hotline, an emergency response program, therapeutic counseling, legal services and supportive housing for survivors. Services are free of charge and are open to anyone needing help. Services are available in English and Spanish, as well as many other languages. To learn more, visit [www.corasupport.org](http://www.corasupport.org). You can also see the latest information by following CORA on twitter ([@ENDtoDV](https://twitter.com/ENDtoDV)) and Facebook ([@facebook.com/corasupport](https://facebook.com/corasupport)).