Hearing On Violence Rape Set Thursday

A public hearing on rape and domestic violence will be Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Nelson Center by the city's newly-formed Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women.

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The hearing is a major step in acknowledging the city's commitment to make the prevention of rape and domestic violence one of its highest priorities, according to Commissioner Gillian Greensite, who said, "We will be able to start developing a comprehensive plan to prevent these violences by soliciting input from as many people as possible."

The commission is seeking suggestions on the needs for services, educational programs, legislation, transportation and other ways to prevent violence

against women, according to Commissioner Barbara Sheen.

"We will also hear personal experiences with medical, police and legal agencies and with other community groups in matters of domestic violence and rape," she said.

Commissioner Sandra Pawula noted that many women don't want to speak publicly about the violence in their lives. She encourages these women to write to the commission anonymously in care of the City Manager's Office, Santa Cruz City Hall, 809 Center St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Free child care for the public hearing will be available by pre-registration through Men Against Rape at 425-5211.

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