

Council member has a 'stalker mentality,' coalition leader says

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A member of the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence on Tuesday punctuated concerns about LeRoy Johnson's past actions toward women, describing his behavior as that of a stalker.

Randy Saucedo, advocacy and audit director of the coalition, was the keynote speaker at Greeley's area Domestic Violence Coalition. The area group meets monthly to discuss issues related to domestic violence. The discussion usually does not turn political, as it did Tuesday, said Ellen Szabo, director of A Woman's Place.

Saucedo said he read about controversy related to Johnson's criminal history and his recent comment about "good-looking" women in the Cranford neighborhood at a council meeting.

"It's one thing to make comments," Saucedo said. "It's another thing to actually be doing something."

Saucedo referenced Johnson's interview on a Denver radio station, when he said he was talking about "Stacy," Johnson's ex-girlfriend, when he made the comment about Cranford women. Johnson went to her Northglenn home and got into a fight with her new boyfriend and later pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct.

"There's still some level of fixation with this person (Stacy)," Saucedo said. "Some connotation to the pathology of a stalker. ... It's a batterer mentality, stalking mentality."

Johnson said he was shocked to hear that he was the topic at such a meeting.

"There's a huge gap between disorderly conduct and domestic violence," Johnson said. "I have not ever done that. It's bogus."

David Gutierrez, leader of the recall petition drive for Johnson, spoke at the meeting as well. He reviewed some of Johnson's previous run-ins with the law.

"There's more to this story than what's on the surface," Gutierrez said. "I think it's not a lapse of judgment, it's a lack of judgment."

Saucedo said this is an effort to bring light to the issue of domestic violence in general. Johnson's actions were discussed at the meeting because of his recent actions.

"It can get worse," Saucedo said, "because now he has been challenged."

Hallie Beard, safe house supervisor at A Woman's Place, said some of Johnson's behaviors are warning signs for domestic violence. She said Johnson has exhibited obsessive behavior, such as many phone calls to get his voice across to Stacy Medina.

Johnson said the phone calls went both ways, but said he did not want to talk about the phone calls any more for Medina's sake. He also gave a reason for visiting her in Northglenn.

"I was invited there as I had been invited many occasions before," Johnson said. He said he resents the comparison and wants to get past the issue.

Saucedo, however, said it's time to speak out against the behavior, especially since he is a public official.

"Silence equates consent, unfortunately," Saucedo said. "For batterers to see this behavior enables them."