

# City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County



## JOINT PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, teen dating violence is a pattern of abusive, controlling, or aggressive behaviors used to exert power and control over a dating partner, affecting all communities regardless of race, gender, socio-economic status, religion, nationality, or sexual orientation; and

**WHEREAS**, teen dating violence includes verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual violence, stalking, economic abuse, and cyber abuse, with over 50% of adolescents having encountered cyber dating abuse including online harassment, threats, monitoring, or coercion; and

**WHEREAS**, 1.5 million teenagers in the U.S. say they have experienced abusive behavior in a relationship each year, with only 9% of teens in an abusive relationship reporting the abuse to a trusted adult. A 2026 survey of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools students found that 90 of 229 students (39.3%) had unhealthy or abusive relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, teens who experience teen dating violence are more prone to other forms of interpersonal violence such as bullying and gun violence, having an elevated risk for adverse physical, emotional, and behavioral health outcomes, including suicide, depression, anxiety, and substance use, as well as a higher likelihood of experiencing relationship violence in adulthood; and

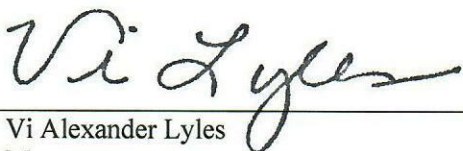
**WHEREAS**, teen dating violence requires comprehensive, collaborative violence prevention strategies that address risk and protective factors for dating violence, change norms and attitudes that promote violence, and heals the long-term effects of victimization.

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE**, Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor of Charlotte, and Mark D. Jerrell, Chair of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim, February 2026 and February 9 – 13, respectively as

### **“TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH” & “RESPECT WEEK”**

in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and encourage all residents to join in supporting victims and survivors of teen dating violence, promoting safe and healthy relationships, and committing to a future free from abuse. During Respect Week, we encourage all residents to wear orange on February 10 to promote kindness, inclusion, understanding, and support to victims and survivors of teen dating violence.

**WITNESS OUR HANDS** and the official Seals of the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

  
Vi Alexander Lyles  
Mayor

  
Mark D. Jerrell, Chair  
Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners