

PROCLAMATION

City of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County

WHEREAS, females between the ages 16-24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence, experiencing abuse at a rate almost triple the national average; and

WHEREAS, one in three adolescents in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth; and

WHEREAS, high school students who experience physical violence in a dating relationship are more likely to use drugs and alcohol, are at greater risk of suicide and are much more likely to carry patterns of abuse into future relationships; and

WHEREAS, young people victimized by a dating partner are more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior and unhealthy dating behaviors and the experience may disrupt normal development of self-esteem and body image; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of teens who experience dating violence report that incidents of abuse took place in a school building or on school grounds; and

WHEREAS, 33% of teens who are in an abusive relationship never tell anyone about the abuse, and 81% of parents surveyed either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know if it is one; and

WHEREAS, by providing young people with education about healthy relationships and relationship skills and by changing attitudes that support violence, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to raise community awareness and to provide training for teachers, counselors and school staff so that they may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs of dating violence; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit young people, their families, schools and communities regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity; and


WHEREAS, everyone has the right to a safe and healthy relationship and to be free from abuse;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, Jennifer W. Roberts, Mayor of Charlotte, and Ella B. Scarborough, Chair of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim, February 2017 as

“TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH”

in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and commend its observance to all citizens.

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


Jennifer W. Roberts, Mayor
City of Charlotte




Ella B. Scarborough, Chair
Mecklenburg Board of
County Commissioners

