

# *PROCLAMATION*

## City of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County

### **Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month Proclamation February 2018**

**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 dieting 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**, only 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**, Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor of Charlotte, and Ella B. Scarborough, Chair of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim, February 2018 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.

*Vi Lyles*

Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor  
City of Charlotte



*Ella B. Scarborough*

Ella B. Scarborough, Chair  
Mecklenburg Board of  
County Commissioners

