

# PROCLAMATION

## City of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County

**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**, one in four teens report being called names, harassed, or demeaned by their partner via cell phone or texting; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the severity of intimate partner violence is often greater in cases where the pattern of abuse was established in adolescence; and

**WHEREAS**, eight of the forty-one homicides in Charlotte in 2018 were tied to domestic violence (20%) and 48 domestic violence-related homicides occurred in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, 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 George Dunlap, Chair of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim, February 2019 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



*George Dunlap*

George Dunlap, Chair  
Mecklenburg Board of  
County Commissioners

