



Casa de Esperanza

- ◆ Domestic Violence Services
- ◆ Rape Crisis Services
- ◆ Community Education, Prevention and Intervention
- ◆ Children/Teen Programs

Wheatland City Council
313 Main Street
Wheatland, CA 95692

February 26, 2017

Dear Councilmember's:

February is *National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month*. This month provides an excellent opportunity for the City of Wheatland to demonstrate its commitment to ending teen dating violence and support the numerous victims and survivors who are among us. One in three teens in the US is a victim of physical, emotional or sexual abuse from a dating partner. These violent relationships have serious consequences for victims – putting them at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide and adult re-victimization. Now is the time to educate our communities about the seriousness of teen dating violence and the prevalence of this epidemic in our lives.

Casa de Esperanza would be honored if you would sponsor an official proclamation to recognize February as City of Wheatland's *City Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month*. Your proclamation would lend official recognition to the important work of raising awareness about teen dating violence as well as emphasize your personal commitment to ending this crime. We have enclosed a sample to guide your office in composing a proclamation for our county.

If you or your staff have any questions about this request, the sample proclamation or *National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month*, please call us at (530)674-5400. We appreciate your support and thank you for your consideration of this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Arianna Lozano
Casa de Esperanza
Enclosure

Casa de Esperanza

Safe Homes. Safe Communities.
Safe communities. Safe Homes.

**TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH, February 2017
A PROCLAMATION**

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 adolescent girls 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 ever 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 BE IT PROCLAIMED, **February 2017**, Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, throughout the **City of Wheatland**. I urge all citizens, agencies and businesses to work toward ending teen dating violence by empowering young people to develop healthier relationships, assisting victims in accessing the information and supportive services they need, creating better and more resources for young people in need, instituting effective intervention and prevention policies in schools and engaging in discussions with family members and peers to promote awareness and prevention of the quiet epidemic of teen dating violence.

Rick West, Mayor