

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH, February 2018
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 girls and one in four boys in the United States are victims 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 regarding healthy relationships and relationship skills and by changing attitudes and behaviors 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, I, **[Official's name]**, **[Official's Title (e.g. Governor, Mayor, Superintendent, Sheriff)]** of **[Location or Organization (e.g. Arkansas, Carteret County, Washington High School)]**, do hereby proclaim February **[year]**, Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, throughout **[Location or Organization]**. We urge all residents to work toward ending teen dating violence by working with Casa de Esperanza to empower 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.

City of Wheatland
313 Main St.
Wheatland, CA 95692

January 19, 2018

Dear Council Members,

February is *National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month*. This month provides an excellent opportunity for 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 domestic violence, substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide and adult re-victimization. Now is the time to educate and bring awareness to our communities about the seriousness and prevalence of teen dating violence and bring prevention to our society.

Casa de Esperanza would be honored if you would sponsor an official proclamation to recognize February as the City of Wheatland's *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 emphasizing your personal commitment to ending this crime. Attached is a sample proclamation to guide your office in composing a proclamation for your 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 or look into teendvmonth@breakthecycle.org. We appreciate your support and thank you for your consideration of this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Deborah Lineker-Lee
Casa de Esperanza

Attachment