

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

WHEREAS, Females between the ages of 16 and 24 are more vulnerable to dating violence than any other age group, 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 a 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 building relationship skills, and by changing attitudes that support violence, it can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, It is essential to raise awareness among communities 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 Dating Violence Awareness Month will benefit young people, their families, schools, and communities regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or ethnicity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tano Tijerina, County Judge of Webb County, do hereby proclaim the month of February, 2016 as TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH. I also call upon all citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals and schools to support efforts that will encourage violence awareness and prevention throughout our community.