



TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, teen dating violence, also known as dating abuse, is a serious problem and studies show that 1 in 4 teens will be in an unhealthy or abusive relationship; and

WHEREAS, the theme for February 2022 is to promote #HEALTHYLOVE and all those participating are encourage to wear orange to raise awareness about dating violence; and

WHEREAS, teen dating violence intervention and prevention programs can help to ensure a positive school climate and a safe learning environment for all youth ages 12 to 24; and education and outreach programs to community members address warning signs of teen dating violence among youth before behaviors escalate, and protect the safety of targeted youth; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations for a comprehensive primary prevention program, multiple strategies are required such as teaching safe and healthy relationship skills, engaging influential adults and peers, disrupting the developmental pathways toward partner violence, creating protective environments, strengthening economic supports for families, and supporting survivors to increase safety and lessen harm; and

WHEREAS, each year, an estimated one in ten high school students is physically hurt on purpose by a dating partner; and according to the American Psychological Association, one in three teens ages 14 to 20 have experienced dating abuse and about the same number say they have committed dating abuse themselves; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, one in nine female teens and one in thirteen male teens reported experiencing physical violence in the last year; and according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, one in seven female teens and one in nineteen male teens reported experiencing sexual dating violence in the last year; and

WHEREAS, in Orange County, teen dating violence begins on average at 15.5 years old, or tenth grade, one in four have experienced some form of sexual abuse in their teen dating relationships and more than 30 percent have been put down, insulted called bad names, or humiliated/ belittled by their partner on a frequent basis; and



CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

Proclamation

WHEREAS, five out of ten teens in Orange County reported having experienced abuse in only one high school dating relationship, local research reveals nearly 35 percent of teens reported being pushed, shoved or slapped by their dating partner and almost 30 percent reported having a partner threaten to hurt them, with nine percent of those reporting it was frequent or routine occurrence; and

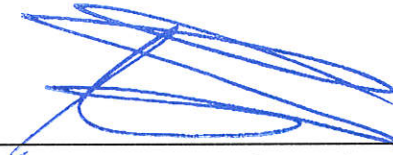
WHEREAS, teen dating violence is a pattern of behavior that includes physical, verbal, sexual and emotional abuse, which can occur in person or through electronic communication and social media; and

WHEREAS, survivors of teen dating violence have increased risk for truancy, dropout, teen pregnancy, suicide, having eating disorders, and engaging in other harmful behaviors such as use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; and are at higher risk for victimization during college, and adolescent perpetrators of dating violence are more likely to abuse their intimate partners as adults; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit schools, communities, families, and all youth; now, therefore, be it

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John B. Stephens, Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa do hereby proclaim the month of February 2022 as **Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month**, and encourage all residents to join me in supporting communities to empower teens to develop healthy and violence-free relationships throughout their lives.

DATED this fifteenth day of February 2022.



John B. Stephens, Mayor of City of Costa Mesa