

PROCLAMATION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2025 AS

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

WHEREAS, young women between the ages of 16 and 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, and this exceeds victimization rates for other types of youth violence; 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, teens who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community face unique challenges with teen dating violence; 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, every person has the right to a healthy relationship and to be free from abuse and, to that end, the recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month benefits young people, their families, schools, and communities regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby designates the month of February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, working to end teen dating violence by empowering young people to develop healthier relationships, assisting survivors in accessing supportive services, creating better resources for young people, and engaging in discussions to promote prevention of the epidemic of teen dating violence.

Dated: February 11, 2025

SUPERVISORS:

DAVID J. CANEPA, PRESIDENT

JACKIE SPEIER

NOELIA CORZO

RAY MUELLER

LISA GAUTHIER

Attest: _____
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors