



# *Proclamation*

- WHEREAS,** California is committed to the wellbeing and protection of our youth, the safety of our communities, and to fostering a society based upon respect for one another and where violence has no role; and
- WHEREAS,** teen dating violence involves physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, economic, or other abusive behavior including: harassment and cyberbullying via texting, "sexting" emailing, instant messaging, or posting on social media and is committed by a person intending to harm, threaten, intimidating, harass, control, isolate, or monitor another person with whom they have or have had a dating relationship; and
- WHEREAS,** dating violence can have a negative effect on health throughout life, as teens who are victims are more likely to be depressed, have eating disorders, do poorly in school, engage in unhealthy behaviors such as drug and alcohol use, and think about or attempt suicide; and
- WHEREAS,** national studies on this issue indicate that approximately 1 in 3 adolescent girls experience some form of interpersonal violence; nearly 1 in 10 teens report they were intentionally hit, slapped, or physically hurt by their boyfriend or girlfriend, 62% of young teens- ages 11 to 14 years report knowing friends who have been in verbally abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend; and
- WHEREAS,** studies regarding cyberbullying report that 26% of youth in a relationship said they experience some form of cyber dating abuse in the prior years; it is further reported that nearly 40% of teenagers were contacted electronically by their partners, anywhere from 10 to more than 30 times per hour, in the evening; and
- WHEREAS,** California has focused on the teen dating violence issues through effective measures and action, including a teen focused dating abuse and healthy relationship website, a social media initiative, and public awareness campaign such as [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org); and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE MURPHY, Mayor** of the City of Merced, do hereby proclaim February 2017 Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, and urge all citizens of Merced to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Signed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2017.

---

*Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced*