



Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** California is committed to the well-being and protection of our youth, the safety of our communities, and to fostering a society based upon respect for one another where violence has no role; teen dating violence, and its various forms of control and abuse, is a serious crime with the potential to destroy the lives of those impacted; 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, "cyberstalking," or posting on social media and is committed by a person intending to harm, threaten, intimidate, harass, control, isolate, or monitor another person with whom they have or had a dating relationship. During early teenage dating experiences, new and complete emotions can result in a victim misinterpreting certain behaviors displayed by a dating partner such as obsessiveness and impulsive actions as affections; and,
- WHEREAS,** Dating violence can have a negative effect on health throughout life, as teens who are victims are more likely to be depressed, think about or attempt suicide, have eating disorders, do poorly in school, engage in risky sexual behavior, and engage in drug and alcohol use; and,
- WHEREAS,** National reports on this issue indicate that nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year; 1 in 10 high school students report being intentionally hit, slapped, or physically hurt by their dating partner; and dating violence impacts 1 in 3 female adolescents, a rate higher than other forms of violence. California has focused on 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 campaigns such as loveisrespect.org.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE MURPHY, Mayor of the City of Merced, on behalf of the City Council hereby proclaim month of February 2020, as "Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month" and urge(s) all citizens to show support for organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy to victims and promote public awareness of teen dating violence.

Signed this 3rd day of February 2020.

Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced