



- WHEREAS, teen dating violence (TDV), also called, “dating violence”, is an adverse childhood experience that affects millions of young people across our country and has consequences that can last long into adulthood; and,
- WHEREAS, according to the US Office of Women’s Health, more than 15 million children in the United States live in homes in which domestic violence has happened at least once resulting in children being at greater risk for repeating the cycle as adults. A boy who sees his mother being abused is 10 times more likely to abuse his female partner as an adult. A girl who grows up in a home with domestic violence is six times as likely to be abused as a girl growing up in a non-abusive home; and,
- WHEREAS, females between the ages of 16 and 24 are roughly 3 times more likely than the rest of the population to be impacted by violence from a dating partner; and,
- WHEREAS, by providing young people with education about healthy relationships and relationship skills we recognize that dating violence can be prevented; and,
- WHEREAS, Hope United Survivor Network, The Cathy Mabry Cloninger Center, Rose Planer, Public Health, Gaston County School Resource Officers, and Gaston County Schools have partnered to bring education to students in our community through student led initiatives called YOU-th clubs to raise awareness, recognize signs of abuse, and support those impacted by violent relationships; and,
- WHEREAS, the acknowledgment of Teen Dating Awareness Month will benefit young people, their families, schools, and communities.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners proclaims the month of February 2024 as

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

and urges all citizens to work toward ending teen dating violence by empowering young people to develop healthier relationships, assisting victims in accessing the information and supportive services they need and engaging in discussion with family members and peers to promote awareness and prevention.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Cathy Cloninger

Kim Johnson

Allen R. Fraley

Tom Keigher

Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 27th Day of February 2024