



WHEREAS, females between the ages of 16-24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence, experiencing abuse at a rate almost triple the national average; and,

WHEREAS, one in three adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence; and,

WHEREAS, violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications by putting the victims at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior and further domestic violence; and,

WHEREAS, only 33% of teens who were in a violent relationship ever told anyone about the abuse; and,

WHEREAS, 81% of parents believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they don't know if it's an issue; 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, it is essential to raise community awareness so we may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs of dating violence; and,

WHEREAS, the establishment of Teen Dating Awareness Month will benefit young people, their families, schools and communities; and,

WHEREAS, everyone has the right to a safe and healthy relationship and to be free from abuse.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners proclaims the month of February 2018 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

Allen R. Fraley

Tom Keigher, Vice-Chairman

Donald J. Grant, Jr.

Tracy L. Philbeck

Bob Hovis

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 27th Day of February 2018