



**R-7**

**Rex Richardson**  
Long Beach City Councilmember, 9th District

**Date:** February 9, 2016

**To:** Honorable Mayor Robert Garcia and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilmember Rex Richardson, Ninth District  
Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez, First District  
Councilwoman Suzie Price, Third District  
Councilmember Al Austin, Eighth District

**Subject:** Resolution for National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommendation to request a resolution in support of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month in February.

**Discussion**

National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month is an effort to raise awareness about abuse in teen relationships and promote programs that prevent it during the month of February. Dating violence is a type of intimate partner violence, and occurs between two people in a close relationship. According to a recent national survey, 1 in 10 teens reported being hit or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend at least once in the last 12 months. In addition, 1 in 4 teenagers have been in a relationship where a partner is verbally abusive.

Dating violence can have a negative effect on health throughout life. Victims of teen dating violence are more likely to experience symptoms of depression and anxiety. They might also engage in unhealthy behaviors, such as using tobacco, drugs, and alcohol. Teens who are victims in high school are at higher risk for victimization during college.

By supporting National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, the City of Long Beach can bring awareness to the issue on a local level and demonstrate its commitment to creating a healthier community.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact.

**SAMPLE RESOLUTION**  
**“TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH”**

WHEREAS, although dating violence, domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking affect women regardless of age, teenage girls and young women are especially vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence survey recently conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ('CDC'), the majority of victimization starts early in life, as most victims of rape and intimate partner violence first experience such violence before age 24; and

WHEREAS, according to the Liz Claiborne Inc. 2009 Parent/Teen Dating Violence Poll approximately 1 in 3 adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a rate that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting young people; and

WHEREAS, according to the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) of the CDC, nearly 10 percent of high school students have been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend during the past year; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Journal of Public Health, more than 1 in 4 teenagers have been in a relationship where a partner is verbally abusive; and

WHEREAS, according to a survey conducted by the YRBSS, almost 20 percent of teenage girls who were exposed to physical dating violence did not attend school on 1 or more occasions during the 30 days preceding the survey because the girls felt unsafe at school or on the way to or from school; and

WHEREAS, a violent relationship in adolescence can have serious ramifications for the victim, putting the victim at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult re-victimization; and

WHEREAS, being physically or sexually abused makes teenage girls:

- (1) up to 6 times more likely to become pregnant; and
- (2) more than twice as likely to contract a sexually transmitted disease; and

WHEREAS, nearly 3 in 4 'tweens', individuals who are between the ages of 11 and 14, report that dating relationships usually begin at age 14 or younger, and approximately 72 percent of students in eighth or ninth grade report dating; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 5 tweens report having a friend who is a victim of dating violence, and nearly half of tweens who are in relationships know a friend who is verbally abused; and

WHEREAS, more than 3 times as many tweens (20 percent) as parents of tweens (6 percent) admit that parents know little or nothing about the dating relationships of tweens; and

WHEREAS, according to the Liz Claiborne Inc. 2009 Parent/Teen Dating Violence Poll, although 82 percent of parents are confident that they could recognize the signs that their child was experiencing dating abuse, a majority of parents, or 58 percent, could not correctly identify all the warning signs of dating abuse; and

WHEREAS, 74 percent of teenage boys and 66 percent of teenage girls say they have not had a conversation with a parent about dating abuse in the past year; and

WHEREAS, according to a National Crime Prevention Council survey, 43 percent of middle and high school students reported experiencing cyber-bullying during the past year; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 4 teens in a relationship report having been called names, harassed, or put down by a partner through the use of a cell phone, including through texting; and

WHEREAS, 3 in 10 young people have sexted, and 61 percent of young people who have sexted report being pressured to do so at least once; and

WHEREAS, the severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to be greater in cases where a pattern of violence was established during adolescence; and

WHEREAS, primary prevention programs are a key part of addressing teen dating violence, and successful examples of such programs include education, community outreach, and social marketing campaigns that are culturally appropriate; and

WHEREAS, skilled assessment and intervention programs are also necessary for young victims and abusers; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit schools, communities, and families regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or sex.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Long Beach:

- (1) designates the month of February 2016 as 'Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month';
- (2) supports communities that are empowering teenagers to develop healthier relationships throughout their lives; and
- (3) calls upon the people of our city, county, state and country, including young people, parents, schools, law enforcement officials, State and local officials, and interested groups to observe Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.