

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LONG BEACH IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL TEEN
DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION
MONTH IN FEBRUARY

WHEREAS, although dating violence, domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking affect those of all ages, teenagers and young people 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 they felt unsafe at, or on the way to or from, school; and

WHEREAS, a violent relationship in adolescence can have serious

1 ramifications for the victim, putting the victim at higher risk for substance abuse, eating
2 disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult re-victimization; and

3 WHEREAS, being physically or sexually abused makes teenage girls:

4 (1) up to 6 times more likely to become pregnant; and

5 (2) more than twice as likely to contract a sexually transmitted
6 disease; and

7 WHEREAS, nearly 3 in 4 “tweens”, individuals who are between the ages of
8 11 and 14, report that dating relationships usually begin at age 14 or younger, and
9 approximately 72 percent of students in eight or ninth grade report dating; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as
15 follows:

16 Section 1. The City Council of the City of Long Beach hereby designates
17 the month of February 2016 as "Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention
18 Month";

19 Section 2. The City Council of the City of Long Beach hereby supports
20 communities that are empowering teenagers to develop healthier relationships
21 throughout their lives; and

22 Section 3. The City Council of the City of Long Beach hereby calls upon
23 the people of our city, county, state, and country, including young people, parents,
24 schools, law enforcement officials, State and local officials, and interested groups, to
25 observe Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

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