

**PROCLAMATION
TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
CITY OF FLAGLER BEACH, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY, 2025**

WHEREAS, the City of Flagler Beach is committed to the well-being and protection of our youth, the safety of our communities, and to fostering a society based upon mutual respect for one another – with zero tolerance for any forms of victimization and abuse; and

WHEREAS, teen dating violence is a serious crime that can involve physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, economic, or other abusive behavior, including harassment and cyberbullying via texting, emailing, instant messaging, or posting on social media; and

WHEREAS, women who are 16 to 24 years in age are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence, experiencing abuse at a rate of nearly triple the national average; and

WHEREAS, one in three adolescents in the United States 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; one in ten high school students has been purposefully hit, slapped or physically harmed by a boyfriend or girlfriend; one in ten teens reported sexual victimization from a dating partner; and one in four teens in a relationship report their boyfriend or girlfriend isolating them from all friends and family; and

WHEREAS, young people who have been victimized by an abusive dating partner can experience serious negative effects to their physical and emotional health and are more likely to be depressed, develop low self-esteem, perform poorly in school, engage in risky behaviors such as drug and alcohol use, and contemplate or attempt suicide; and

WHEREAS, while dating violence affects teens across all races, genders, religions, nationalities, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic statuses, it disproportionately affects lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, who experience rates of intimate partner violence that are almost twice as high as the rates for heterosexual youth; transgender youth report even higher rates of victimization and dating violence than their heterosexual peers; and

WHEREAS, parents and guardians of victims of dating abuse are often unaware of the problem: studies show that only 33 percent of teens in an abusive relationship ever told anyone about the behavior and 81 percent of parents responded either that teen dating abuse is not an issue or that they did not know whether it is an issue; and

WHEREAS, Flagler County Advocates Alliance is working to increase public understanding of this problem and mobilize community efforts to end Teen Dating Violence.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY OF FLAGLER BEACH COMMISSIONERS that they hereby declare **February 2025** as “**National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month**” in Flagler Beach and applaud the efforts of the many victim service providers, police officers, prosecutors, national and community organizations, and private sector supporters for their efforts in promoting awareness about teen dating violence.

Adopted this 13th day of February 2025.

Patti King, Mayor