

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2012/60

Proclaiming February 2012, as “Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.”

Whereas, teen dating violence, also known as dating abuse, is a serious and growing problem in Contra Costa County; and

Whereas, teen dating violence is defined as a pattern of destructive behaviors used to exert power and control over a current or former partner, including actual or threatened acts of physical, sexual, emotional, and/or verbal abuse; and

Whereas one in three teens report knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, choked or physically hurt by their partner; and

Whereas, approximately 10 percent of adolescents nationwide reported being the victim of physical violence and 20 to 30 percent reported being verbally or psychologically abused by a romantic partner in the previous year, translating into an estimated 10,000 Contra Costa County adolescents who were victims of physical violence and between 20,000 and 30,000 adolescents verbally or psychologically abused by a romantic partner in the previous year; and

Whereas, teen dating violence has been linked to other forms of violence and aggression against peers, including, bullying, sexual harassment, sexual violence and physical violence; and

Whereas, victims of teen dating violence are at increased risk for low academic performance, truancy, dropout, harmful behaviors such as use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, eating disorders, teen pregnancy and suicidality; and

Whereas, students who are victims in high school are at higher risk for victimization during college, and

adolescent perpetrators of dating violence are more likely to abuse their intimate partners as adults; and

Whereas, all adolescents should feel safe in their relationships; and experience the characteristics of healthy relationships including respect, safety, support, individuality, fairness, equality, acceptance, honesty and trust; and

Whereas, protective factors and conditions in the environments in an adolescents home, school, community, family and peer groups serve to promote resilience, positive youth development and protect adolescents from abuse in relationships; and

Whereas, protective factors and conditions include caring relationships, high and positive expectations and support, and meaningful opportunities to participate and contribute; and

Whereas, internal assets that can be developed include empathy, self-awareness, self-efficacy, and problem solving which can serve to protect adolescents from risk factors and abuse in relationships; and

Whereas, when adolescents feel connected to their school, or delay the onset of dating relationships, incidence of teen dating violence greatly declines; and

Whereas, coordinated intervention and prevention efforts can address warning signs of dating abuse before behaviors escalate, protect the safety of teens and help ensure a positive climate and safe environment for all teens; and

Whereas, Families Thrive, a project of the county’s Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence Initiative, is committed to eliminating teen dating violence by partnering with public and private agencies and school districts to raise awareness, implement prevention efforts and provide support to teens who have experienced dating violence. Some of the partners in these efforts include: Antioch Police Activities League (PAL), Antioch Unified School District, Community Violence Solutions, Contra Costa County Probation Department, San Ramon Unified School District, STAND! for Families Free of Violence, The Williams Group, Youth Intervention Network and many other youth serving organizations; and

Whereas the establishment of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit schools, communities, families, and all youth.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby proclaim February, 2012 as “Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month”; and urges all residents to raise awareness about the dynamics of teen dating violence and to support and empower teens to develop healthy and violence-free relationships throughout their lives.

MARY N. PIEPHO

Chair,
District III Supervisor

JOHN GIOIA
District I Supervisor

GAYLE B. UILKEMA
District II Supervisor

KAREN MITCHOFF
District IV Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER
District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: February 14, 2012

David J. Twa,

By: _____, Deputy