

The Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, California

In the matter of proclaiming February 2013 as

"Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month"

RESOLUTION NO. 2013/94

WHEREAS, teen dating violence, also known as teen 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 20 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 abuse 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 abuse 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 suicide; 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 environment of 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 with adults and peers, high and positive expectations, and support, and meaningful opportunities to participate and contribute; 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, efforts such as the international campaign "One Billion Rising," to end violence against the one billion women and girls estimated to become victims, are opportunities to increase awareness and encourage action; and

WHEREAS, the One Billion Rising campaign invites women and men to organize dance events, volunteer with local violence prevention service agencies, and say no to violence against women and girls; and

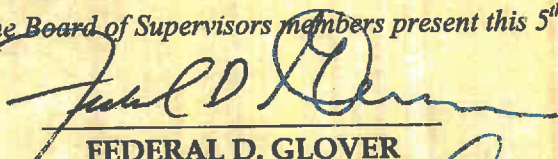
WHEREAS, on February 14th, teens in this county will join with the One Billion Rising campaign to bring greater awareness about violence against women and girls; and

WHEREAS, Families Thrive, a project of the county's Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence Initiative, is committed to eliminating teen dating violence and children's exposure to violence by partnering with numerous public and private agencies and school districts to raise awareness, implement prevention efforts and provide support to teens who have experienced dating violence; and

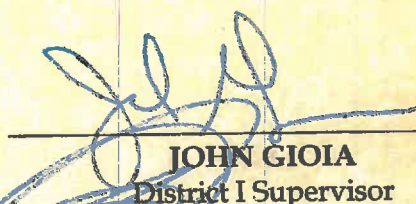
WHEREAS, the establishment of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit schools, communities, families, and all youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby proclaim February 2013 as "Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month," and proclaims February 14th as "One Billion Rising Day" of action 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.

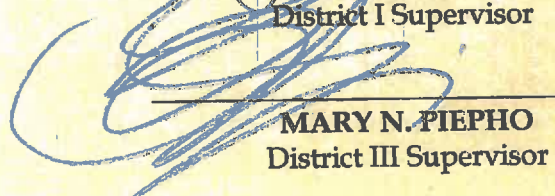
PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present this 5th day of February, 2013.


FEDERAL D. GLOVER

Chair,
District V Supervisor


JOHN GIOIA
District I Supervisor


CANDACE ANDERSEN
District II Supervisor


MARY N. PIEPHO
District III Supervisor


KAREN MITCHOFF
Vice Chair,
District IV 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 5, 2013

DAVID TWA, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator

By

Nancy M. Boyd Deputy

Introduced by Supervisor Gioia