

# Proclamation

## ***National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month***

- WHEREAS, 23% of women and 14% of men who were victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime first experienced these or other forms of violence by that partner before age 18; and
- WHEREAS, minority groups are disproportionately affected by all forms of violence, and some racial/ethnic minority groups are disproportionately affected by many types of violence; and
- WHEREAS, victims of teen dating violence are more likely to experience symptoms of depression and anxiety, engage in unhealthy behaviors, exhibit antisocial behaviors, and/or think about suicide; and
- WHEREAS, youth who are victims of dating violence in high school are at higher risk for victimization in college; and
- WHEREAS, violence in adolescent relationships sets the stage for problems in future relationships, including intimate partner violence and sexual violence perpetration and/or victimization throughout life; and
- WHEREAS, supporting the development of healthy, respectful, and nonviolent relationships has the potential to reduce the occurrence of teen dating violence and prevent its harmful and long-lasting effects on individuals, their families, and the communities where they live; and
- WHEREAS, the elimination of teen and lifelong dating violence must be achieved through the cohesive effort of individuals, organizations, and communities; and
- WHEREAS, Rape Crisis Intervention Service of Carroll County, in conjunction with other organizations nationwide, designates the month of February as an excellent opportunity to promote awareness and prevention of teen dating violence, including supporting those organizations and individuals who provide advocacy, services, and assistance to victims;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE BOARD OF CARROLL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, proclaim February 2020 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month in Carroll County, Maryland. We urge all citizens to work toward ending teen dating violence by supporting the efforts of the community to promote awareness and empower teenagers to develop healthier relationships. We encourage community leaders to assist victims in accessing the necessary resources for recovery, to develop a comprehensive response to dating violence, and to engage in discussions with adult and youth community members to promote awareness and prevention of the heinous and widespread crime of teen dating violence that affects members across communities.

Adopted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY

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Stephen A. Wantz, President

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Edward C. Rothstein, Vice President

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C. Richard Weaver, 2nd Vice President

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