

# DENVER CITY COUNCIL



## Proclamation No. 24-0147

### A Proclamation Recognizing February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

**WHEREAS**, the month of February signifies Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, an annual campaign recognized nationally in 2013, to highlight this important issue and provide prevention efforts for survivors and our community; and

**WHEREAS**, dating violence does not discriminate, with 1 in 3 adolescents reporting an experience of dating violence before they become adults, and with vast underreporting of dating violence across ages; and

**WHEREAS**, dating violence incidents continue to rise, increasing the need for services, and with teens who experience dating violence being more likely to struggle in school, develop mental health issues, turn to substance misuse, and engage in unhealthy relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, everyone has a right to feel safe, education on healthy relationships for all ages is crucial for preventing future incidents of violence, along with strong support from the community, sending a powerful message that dating violence will not be tolerated; and

**WHEREAS**, 86% of teens in a violent relationship would confide in a peer rather than a trusted adult, and of those, only 33% ever follow-through with reporting, and LGBTQIA+ teens at higher risk of dating violence and facing more barriers to care; and

**WHEREAS**, 1.5 million teens across the U.S. are physically abused by their dating partner each year and 20% of all domestic violence fatalities in Colorado had a victim 26 years old or younger. This demonstrates the need for safe, tailored, youth resources.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That the Council of the City and County of Denver hereby recognizes February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Heather Schreck of SAFEHOUSE Denver.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL February 12, 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "D. L. ...", written over a horizontal line.

PRESIDENT

