

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## Proclamation No. 22-1411

### Recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention Month and the Importance of Domestic Violence Education Among Our Youth

**WHEREAS**, October 2022 is Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, and all Americans are called to speak out against domestic violence and support efforts to educate all people about healthy relationships centered on respect; and

**WHEREAS**, policymakers play a role in preventing teen dating violence, with at least 23 states having laws that allow, urge, or require school districts to develop or include curriculum on teen dating violence; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence affects people of all races, ages, gender identities, socioeconomic levels, religions, backgrounds, beliefs and abilities; and includes physical, emotional, social, sexual, spiritual, financial, and digital abuse; and can occur between family members, intimate partners and within dating relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, intimate partner violence is prevalent among teens, with 1 in 3 experiencing relationship abuse; 1 in 12 experiencing physical dating violence in the past year; and 1 in 12 experiencing sexual dating violence in past year; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of teens (71%) report being in a relationship by the age of 15; and females between the ages of 16 and 24 are roughly 3 times more likely than the rest of the population to be abused by an intimate partner; and

**WHEREAS**, youth who are victims of dating violence in high school are at higher risk for revictimization throughout their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, Denver North High School has joined efforts with Joanna Saenz Enterprises to implement a pilot domestic violence education curriculum in the 9th grade Freshman Seminar in order to prevent and address the harmful effects of violence being experienced now and preventing revictimization in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, through this curriculum, students are educated on what relational violence looks like, what red flag behaviors are, the effects of the different types of abuse, and what to do if you or someone you know is experiencing abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, students were encouraged and empowered with a YouCAN (Community Action Network) attitude to take a solutions-based approach in their awareness of domestic violence and the problems it poses in their community; and

**WHEREAS**, we honor those courageous survivors and volunteers who generously gave their time and talents in working to end domestic violence: Denver North High School Principal German Echevarria, Joanna Rosa-Saenz, Laura Bates, Dr. Shadi Kafi, Amanda Elliot, Keri Mills, Gilbert DeLeon, J. Anthony Garnica, Yanik, Iris Martinez, Arianna, Brianna, Amber Espinoza, Robyn Winters, Soledad Zorn, Derek Abt, Michael Alacron, and Cora Poole.

**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 recognizes the importance of Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month and expresses gratitude for these efforts toward youth education in preventing domestic violence.

**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 copies be transmitted to Joanna Saenz and her team of domestic violence educators.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 31, 2022

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PRESIDENT