

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, dating violence is a reality for many youth, and an issue that many are unaware of, and;

WHEREAS, 1 in 3 young people are affected by physical, sexual, and verbal dating violence, with 1 in 5 in a serious relationship reporting having been slapped, pushed, hit, threatened or coerced by a partner, and;

WHEREAS, breakups can be a time of even greater risk even if a relationship was never previously physically abusive, and;

WHEREAS, Young people can choose better relationships when they understand that healthy relationships are based on respect and learn to identify early warning signs of an abusive relationship, and;

WHEREAS, Elimination of dating violence must be achieved through cooperation of individuals, organizations, and communities, and;

WHEREAS, Dating Violence Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn about preventing dating violence and to show support for numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services, and assistance to victims;

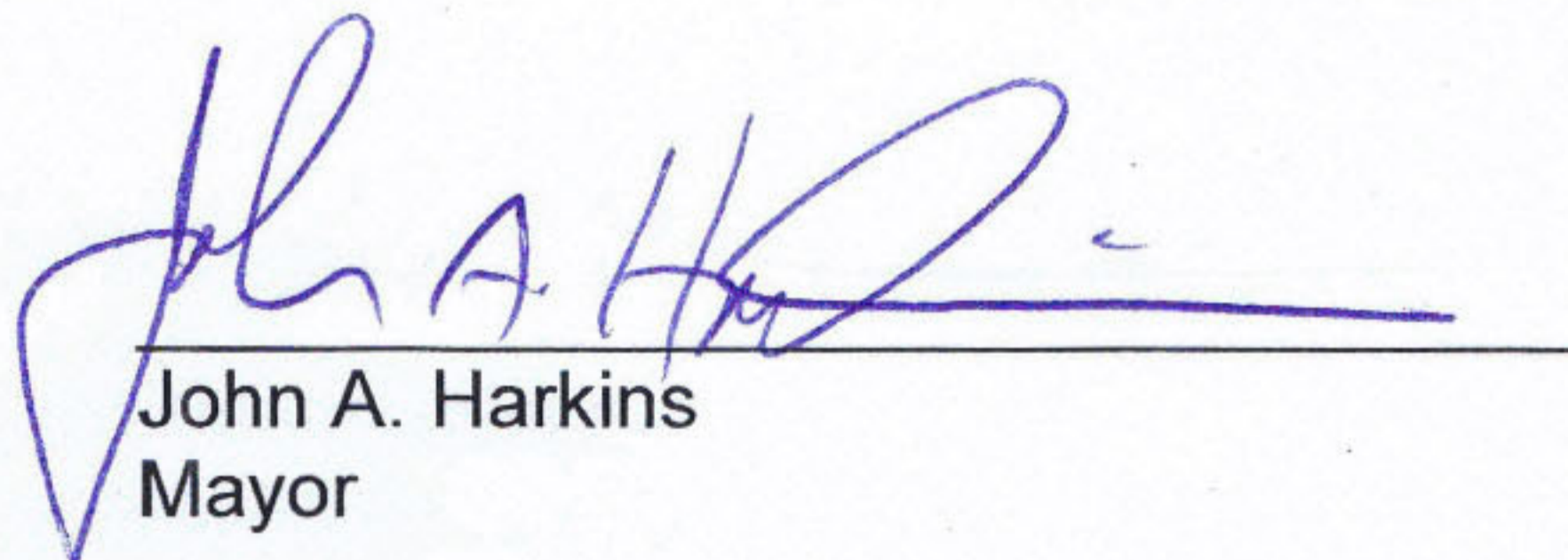
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN A. HARKINS, Mayor of the Town of Stratford, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2010, as

DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in the Town of Stratford, Connecticut.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Town of Stratford this 27th day of January A.D. 2010.




John A. Harkins
Mayor