

*Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention  
Month*

February 2010

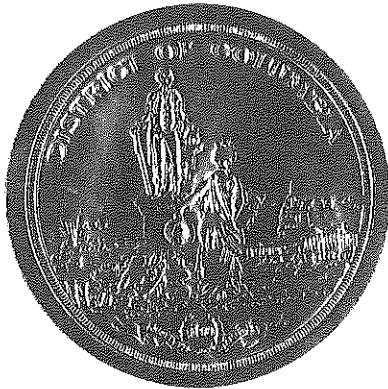
**WHEREAS**, females between the ages of 16-24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence than any other age group; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 3 adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth; and

**WHEREAS**, high school students who experience physical violence in a dating relationship are more likely to use drugs and alcohol, are at a greater risk of suicide, and are much more likely to carry patterns of abuse into future relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, only 33% of teens who were in an abusive relationship ever told anyone about the abuse and by educating young people about healthy relationships, and changing attitudes that support violence, dating violence can be prevented:

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**, do hereby proclaim February 2010, as **"TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH"** in Washington, DC and call upon all the residents of this city to join me in supporting the efforts to empower and educate teens to develop healthy relationships.



  
Adrian M. Fenty  
Mayor, District of Columbia