

**A PROCLAMATION****of the Council of the City of Berkley, Michigan**  
**Proclaiming February 2010 as Dating Violence Awareness Month**  
**in Berkley**

**Whereas,** Studies have found that one in five teenagers in a serious relationship reported that they have been hit, slapped, or pushed by a partner; and

**Whereas,** One in four teenagers have been in a relationship where a partner has been verbally abusive toward them and forty percent of teenagers ages 11 or 12 report that a friend of theirs has been a victim of verbal abuse while in a relationship; and

**Whereas,** Thirty percent of teenagers in a dating relationship have received text messages throughout the day by a partner attempting to find out where they are, what they are doing, or who they are with; and

**Whereas,** Twenty-nine percent of teenage girls who have been in a relationship said that they have been pressured to have sex or engage in sexual activities that they did not want; and

**Whereas,** Sixty-nine percent of all teenagers who had sex by the age of 14 said that they have experienced abuse, either verbal or physical, while in a relationship; and

**Whereas,** The severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to be greater in cases when patterns of violence have been established through adolescence; and

**Whereas,** Violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications since victims of violence have higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide and adult re-victimization; and

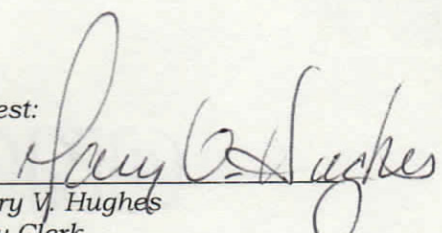
**Whereas,** Dating Violence Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for residents of this city to learn more about preventing teen dating violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victims.

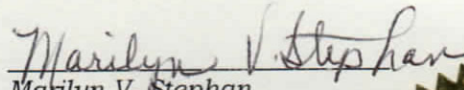
**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BERKLEY RESOLVES:**

**SECTION 1:** That the Council of the City of Berkley hereby proclaims the month of February 2010 as Dating Violence Awareness Month in Berkley and encourages all parents to break the silence and to talk to their children about teen dating violence.

Introduced and passed at a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, February 1, 2010.

Attest:

  
Mary V. Hughes  
City Clerk

  
Marilyn V. Stephan  
Mayor

