

VS 2.2.10 Item 3



JAMES SYLVESTER
Chief Deputy

GREG HAMILTON
TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF

P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 854-9770
www.tcsheriff.org

DARREN LONG
Major - Corrections


PHYLLIS CLAIR
Major - Law Enforcement

MARK SAWA
Major - Administration & Support

January 19, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Sam Biscoe, County Judge
Honorable Ron Davis, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Honorable Sarah Eckhardt, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Honorable Karen Huber, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Honorable Margaret Gomez, Commissioner, Precinct 4

FROM: Sheriff Greg Hamilton 

SUBJECT: Recognize Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

FILED FOR
2010 FEB -2 PM 12:30
TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Travis County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) would like to take this opportunity to recognize Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. According to a survey conducted by Liz Claiborne Inc., "an alarming number of teens experience and accept abusive behavior in dating relationships. Many teens also feel physically and sexually threatened."

- 1 in 5 teens who have been in a serious relationship report being hit, slapped or pushed by a partner.
- 1 in 3 girls who have been in a serious relationship say they've been concerned about being physically hurt by their partner.

In 2006, the TCSO launched its Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention educational initiative. One component of the TCSO's ongoing campaign is to bring attention to teen dating violence through its annual public service announce (PSA) contest, co-sponsored by the Austin Film Festival's (AFF) Young Filmmakers Program. We challenge students county-wide to create 30 second PSAs for entry into a competition to educate and raise awareness of a problem that a growing number of teens are facing, dating violence. The winning films will be distributed to local schools, T.V., and screened at the annual Austin Student Filmmaking Expo in April.

2009-2010 Winning Films:

- First Place - "Recognize the Signs"
 - Sean Haugh & Lee Mendez, Austin High School
- Second Place - "Protect Yourself"
 - Mary Bass, Westlake High School

Travis County Commissioners Court



Proclamation

FILED
2010 FEB -4 AM 9:29
COMMISSIONERS COURT CLERK
TRAVIS COUNTY TEXAS

WHEREAS, dating, domestic, and sexual violence affect individuals regardless of their age, and teens and young women are especially vulnerable;

WHEREAS, approximately 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 far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth;

WHEREAS, nationwide, 1 in 10 high school students (9.9 percent) has been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend;

WHEREAS, more than 1 in 4 teenagers has been in a relationship where a partner is verbally abusive;

WHEREAS, 20 percent of teen girls exposed to physical dating violence did not attend school because the teen girls felt unsafe either at school or on the way to or from school on 1 or more occasions in a 30-day period;

WHEREAS, violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims by putting the victims at a higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult revictimization;

WHEREAS, teen dating abuse most often takes place in the home of one of the partners;

WHEREAS, the severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to be great in cases where the pattern of violence has been established in adolescence;

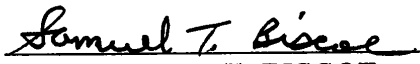
WHEREAS, primary prevention programs are a key part of addressing teen dating violence and successful community examples include education, community outreach, and social marketing campaigns that also understand the cultural appropriateness of programs;


WHEREAS, skilled assessment and intervention programs are also necessary for youth victims and abusers; and

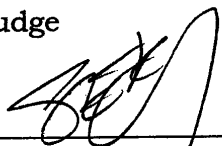
WHEREAS, the establishment of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit schools, communities, and families regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or sex.

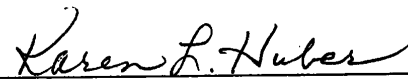
Now, Therefore, the Travis County Commissioner's Court (1) designates the month of February 2010, as "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month"; (2) supports communities to empower teens to develop healthier relationships; and (3) call upon the citizens of Travis County, including youth and parents, schools, law enforcement, and interested groups, to observe National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month with appropriate programs and activities that promote awareness and prevention of the crime of teen dating violence in their communities.

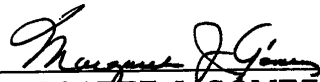
Signed and entered this 2nd day of February, 2010.


SAMUEL T. BISCOE
Travis County Judge


RON DAVIS
Commissioner, Pct. 1


SARAH ECKHARDT
Commissioner, Pct. 2


KAREN L. HUBER
Commissioner, Pct. 3


MARGARET J. GOMEZ
Commissioner, Pct. 4