



DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION

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

WHEREAS, females between the ages 16 - 24 are more vulnerable to dating violence than any other age group at a rate of almost triple the national average, and 81% of parents surveyed either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know if it is one; and

WHEREAS, one in three young people are affected by physical, sexual, or verbal dating violence with one out of five in a serious relationship reporting having been slapped, pushed, hit, threatened or coerced by a partner, and breakups can be a time of even greater risk even when the relationship was never physically abusive; 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, 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 the establishment of Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing dating violence:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Hank Castillon, do hereby declare **February, 2010** as

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in Green River and urge all citizens to work toward ending teen dating violence by helping victims access the resources they need, and by engaging in discussions with family members and peers to promote awareness and prevention of the quiet but frightening crime of teen dating violence in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the City Seal to be affixed this 16th day of February, 2010.



Mayor Hank Castillon