

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, one in three adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence; and

WHEREAS, intimate partner violence often begins in adolescence, with 25% of male and female survivors identifying their first experiences of intimate partner violence as occurring during teen relationships; and

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

WHEREAS, working with youth to help them build social-emotional skills, such as empathy, respect, healthy communication, and conflict resolution, promotes the development and expectation of mutually respectful, caring, and nonviolent relationships; and


WHEREAS, engaging teens and adults to promote social norms that support healthy relationships has great potential to transform our communities so that teen dating violence is not acceptable and everyone has access to the tools to intervene when they witness teen dating violence; and

WHEREAS, the Women's Center of East Texas is focused on ending violence by providing safe haven, crisis intervention and comprehensive support services to victims of teen dating violence; and

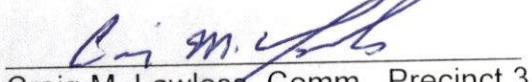
WHEREAS, everyone has the right to a safe and healthy relationship and to be free from abuse.

NOW, THEREFORE, I do hereby proclaim the month of February to be Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and urge all citizens to work toward ending teen dating violence by empowering young people to develop healthier relationships, assisting victims in accessing the information and supportive services they need, creating better and more resources for young people in need, instituting effective intervention and prevention policies in schools and engaging in discussions with family members and peers to promote awareness and prevention of the quiet epidemic of teen dating violence.

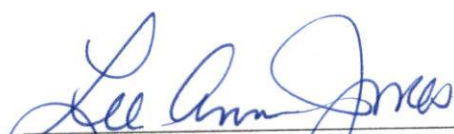
Dated this 18th day of February, 2020.



Ronnie LaGrone, Comm., Precinct 1



Craig M. Lawless, Comm., Precinct 3



Lee Ann Jones, County Judge



David A. Cole, Comm., Precinct 2



Dale LaGrone, Comm., Precinct 4

ATTEST:



Bobbie Davis, County Clerk

