



Proclamation

By the Mayor of Prattville, Alabama

WHEREAS, females between the ages 16-24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence, experiencing abuse at a rate almost triple the national average. One in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner; and

WHEREAS, high school students 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, nearly half of teens who experience dating violence report that incidents of abuse took place in a school building or on school grounds. Only 33% of teens who are in an abusive relationship ever tell anyone about the abuse, 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, it is essential to raise community awareness and to provide training for teachers, counselors and school staff so that they may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs of dating violence; and

WHEREAS, Laura Grace Henry and her foundation, Finding In Plain Sight - the Faces of Domestic Violence, are to be commended for providing young people with information about healthy relationships and relationship skills, and for bringing public awareness to this growing social issue; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Gillespie, Jr., Mayor of the City of Prattville do hereby proclaim February as

Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

in Prattville, Alabama 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.

Given Under My Hand and the Seal of the City
of Prattville on the 10th day of January 2017.



Mayor Bill Gillespie, Jr.

