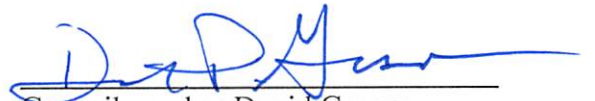
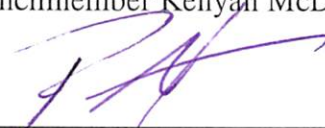


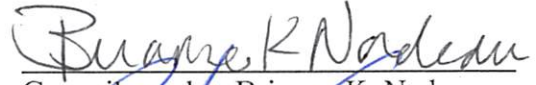
Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie



Councilmember David Grosso



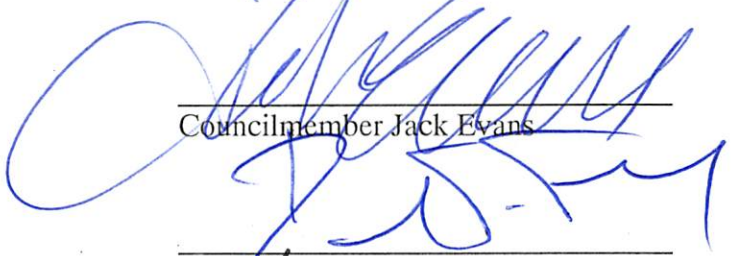
Councilmember Robert White



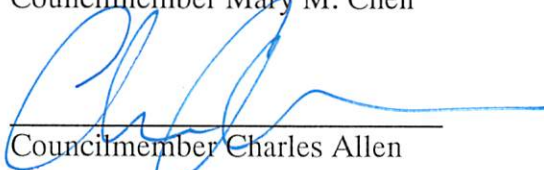
Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau



Councilmember Mary M. Cheh



Councilmember Jack Evans



Councilmember Charles Allen

Councilmember Brandon T. Todd



Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember Vincent Gray



Chairman Phil Mendelson

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize February as "Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month" in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, young women between the ages of 16 and 24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence, experiencing abuse at a rate almost triple the national average;

WHEREAS, one in three teen 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, 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;

WHEREAS, students in the District of Columbia who reported dating violence were 4.5 times more likely to not attend school because they felt unsafe;



45 WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, bisexual and questioning middle and high school students in  
46 the District of Columbia are at a significantly increased risk for sexual assault and experiencing  
47 relationship violence compared to their heterosexual peers;

48  
49 WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, bisexual and questioning middle and high school students in  
50 the District of Columbia were 2.5 times more likely to report being harmed by the person they  
51 were dating than heterosexual youth;

52  
53 WHEREAS, there is a disturbing lack of data on experiences of transgender and gender  
54 non-conforming youth with dating violence, these young people likely are disproportionately  
55 affected, based on the extremely high rates of lifetime intimate partner violence reported by  
56 transgender and gender non-conforming adults;

57  
58 WHEREAS, young people victimized by a dating partner are more likely to engage in  
59 risky sexual behavior and unhealthy dieting behaviors, and the experience may disrupt the  
60 development of self-esteem and positive body image;

61  
62 WHEREAS, nearly half of teens who experience dating violence report that incidents of  
63 abuse took place in a school building or on school grounds;

64  
65 WHEREAS, only 33% of teens who are in an abusive relationship tell anyone about the  
66 abuse, and 81% of parents surveyed either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit  
67 they do not know if it is one;

68  
69 WHEREAS, by providing young people with education about healthy relationships and  
70 relationship skills and by changing attitudes that support violence, the Council recognizes that  
71 dating violence is preventable;

72  
73 WHEREAS, it is essential to raise community awareness and to provide training for  
74 teachers, counselors, and school staff so that they may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs  
75 of dating violence;

76  
77 WHEREAS, the establishment of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention  
78 Month benefits young people, their families, schools, and communities, regardless of  
79 socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, or ethnicity; and

80  
81 WHEREAS, all residents of the District of Columbia have the right to a safe and healthy  
82 relationship and to be free from abuse.

83  
84 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF  
85 COLUMBIA, that the Council declares February as “Teen Dating Violence Awareness and  
86 Prevention Month” in the District of Columbia.

87  
88 Sec. 2. This resolution may be cited as the “Teen Dating Violence Awareness and  
89 Prevention Month Recognition Resolution of 2017”.

91           Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in  
92 the District of Columbia Register.  
93