

# Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

*February 2012*

**WHEREAS**, national studies of teen dating relationships have found that 1 in 3 teenagers has experienced violence in a dating relationship and has feared for his/her physical safety, 1 in 5 teenagers in a serious relationship reports having been hit, slapped, or pushed by a partner, and 1 in 4 girls who have been in a relationship report having been pressured to have sex or to engage in sexual activities that they did not want; and

**WHEREAS**, adolescents involved in violent relationships are at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult re-victimization; and

**WHEREAS**, the severity of violence between intimate partners has been observed to be greater in cases in which a pattern of violence has been established in adolescence; and

**WHEREAS**, teen dating violence, which includes physical, emotional and sexual assault as well as harassment via texting, email and instant messaging, is a serious and growing problem throughout California and Alameda County; and

**WHEREAS**, a study of 232 youth in Alameda County ages 14 to 24 years old revealed that 43.5% reported being intimidated, physically hurt and/or emotionally abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend; and

**WHEREAS**, Alameda County has addressed teen dating violence through programs that empower youth to create an environment where all adults and young people in schools, county agencies, and the broader community promote violence-free relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, Alameda County was awarded a \$1.7 million grant to participate in the “Dating Matters” initiative, which links Alameda County Public Health’s Maternal Paternal Child Adolescent Health unit with Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Family Violence Law Center, and Youth Radio to focus on teen violence prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, Alameda County will continue to participate in national efforts such as observing “Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention” month and support the organizations and individuals that provide services and advocacy to victims of teen dating violence.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, does hereby proclaim the month of February as “Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month” and urges all citizens to actively participate in the efforts to end violence in our homes, schools and communities.**

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**NATE MILEY, President**  
**Supervisor, Fourth District**

*February 28, 2012*

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**KEITH CARSON, Vice-President**  
**Supervisor, Fifth District**

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**SCOTT HAGGERTY**  
**Supervisor, First District**

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**NADIA LOCKYER**  
**Supervisor, Second District**

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**WILMA CHAN**  
**Supervisor, Third District**