

## PROCLAMATION

### Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month | February 2024

**Whereas**, teen dating violence is a serious public health problem that is common among adolescents and young adults ages 10 to 24 and is the most prevalent type of youth violence; and

**Whereas**, approximately 10% of adolescents across the U.S. report being the victim of physical dating violence annually; and

**Whereas**, high school students who witness, experience or perpetrate 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**, only 9% of teen victims report seeking help after their victimization experience; and

**Whereas**, by educating young people about red flags and root causes of violence, building skills for healthy relationships and changing attitudes that support violence, we recognize that teen dating violence can be prevented; 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; and

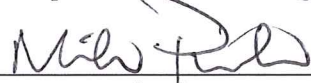
**Whereas**, it is essential to raise community awareness and to provide training for the trusted adults in the lives of adolescents so that they may recognize the signs of dating violence and serve as allies for prevention; and

**Whereas**, the recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in February will benefit young people, their families, schools and communities regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity; and

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

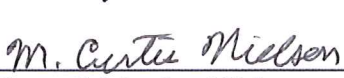
**NOW, THEREFORE**, Mayor and Council of the City of Avondale, Arizona, do hereby proclaim February 2024 Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. I urge all citizens to work toward ending teen dating violence by empowering young people to develop healthier relationships, assisting victims in accessing the information and supportive services they need, creating better resources for young people in need, implementing 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.

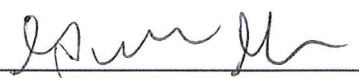
  
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Mayor Weise

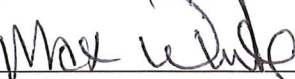
  
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Vice Mayor Pineda

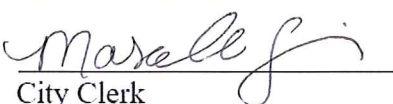
  
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Council Member Conde

  
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Council Member Malone

  
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Council Member Nielson

  
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Council Member Solorio

  
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Council Member White

Attest:   
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City Clerk