



RESOLUTION NO. 24-22

***RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 2024 AS
TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY***

WHEREAS, we recommit ourselves to building a future where all young people feel safe, protected, empowered and deserving of relationships full of respect and kindness; and

WHEREAS, more than 1 in 2 high school students in the United States report they have experienced physical, emotional, digital or sexual violence from a dating partner and most never ask for help; and

WHEREAS, youth who experience relationship abuse have difficulty learning and feeling safe at school, experience higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide attempts; and

WHEREAS, relationship violence is NOT inevitable, prevention works. Since 2012, what is LOVE has worked to prevent relationship violence with their researched whole-school restorative approach to building healthy relationships; and

WHEREAS, what is LOVE provides tools to teach young people how to identify healthy relationships and safely leave abusive ones; and

WHEREAS, what is LOVE works with schools, parents, mental health providers and partner organizations to prevent relationship violence before the crisis, and equip survivors with the resources and care they need to heal; and

WHEREAS, the independent evaluation conducted by UC Santa Barbara for what is LOVE reveals improved capability in recognizing abusive behaviors, improved skills in maintaining healthy relationships, and an increase in access to mental health support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Santa Barbara County recognizes and celebrates the month of February 2024 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month and encourages young people, schools, parents, and our greater community to raise your voices, spread awareness, and actively advocate for relationship education. Our young people deserve a future where healthy, thriving relationships are the norm, not the exception.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 13th day of February, 2024, by unanimous vote of all members present.