

## ATASCOSA COUNTY, TEXAS

### Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, one in three adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence, and

**WHEREAS**, intimate partner violence often begins in adolescence as early as 6<sup>th</sup> grade

**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**, 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**, working with youth to help them build social-emotional skills, such as empathy, respect, healthy communication, and conflict resolution skills, promotes the development and expectation of mutually respectful, caring, and nonviolent relationships, and

**WHEREAS**, engaging teens and adults to promote social norms that support healthy relationships has great potential to transform our communities so that teen dating violence is not acceptable and everyone has access to the tools to intervene when they witness teen dating violence, and

**WHEREAS**, we must work together to create a world where every teen can live free of dating and sexual violence in their homes, schools, and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Weldon P. Cude, Atascosa County Judge, do hereby proclaim February 2025, as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, throughout Atascosa County.