

## **ATASCOSA COUNTY, TEXAS 2026**

### **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, one in three teens 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**, dating violence often begins in adolescence as early as 6<sup>th</sup> grade

**WHEREAS**, experiencing violence or abuse in teen years can negatively impact physical and mental health, school performance and increases risk for drug use and future exposure to violence.

**WHEREAS**, only 33% of teens who are in an abusive relationship tell anyone about the abuse, and 81% of parents surveyed believe teen dating violence is not an issue

**WHEREAS**, engaging teens and adults to promote social norms that support healthy relationships such as respect, healthy communication, and conflict resolution can transform communities so that teen dating violence is not acceptable and everyone has access to the tools to intervene when they witness teen dating violence.

**WHEREAS**, we can prevent teen dating violence in our community by investing time in educating teens and adults about healthy relationships and boundaries, and offering resources to gain safety and support. Together we can help break the cycle of dating violence to create a safer future for all.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Weldon P. Cude, Atascosa County Judge, do hereby proclaim February 2026, as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, throughout Atascosa County