



# PROCLAMATION

## TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH

**WHEREAS** teen dating violence crosses race, gender, and socioeconomic lines; and

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

**WHEREAS** a violent relationship during adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims, including placing them at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult re-victimization; and

**WHEREAS** female students experienced higher rates of physical and sexual dating violence than male students. Students who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) or those who were unsure of their gender identity experienced higher rates of physical and sexual dating violence compared to students who identified as heterosexual; and

**WHEREAS** only 9% of teen victims report seeking help after their victimization experience; and

**WHEREAS** the City of El Mirage through El Mirage Cares and the El Mirage Police Department Victims Assistance Unit will work to educate youth and parents throughout the city to promote healthy relationships; and

**WHEREAS** by providing young people and their parents with education about healthy relationships, building relationship skills, and by changing unhealthy behaviors, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented; and

**WHEREAS** it is essential to raise awareness among communities and to provide training for teachers, counselors, school staff, and parents so that they may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs of dating violence;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Alexis Hermosillo, Mayor of the City of El Mirage, in the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim February 2024 as **TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH** this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

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Alexis A. Hermosillo, Mayor