



# Proclamation

THE STATE OF TEXAS           §

COUNTY OF COMAL           §

CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS   §

**WHEREAS**, nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year; and

**WHEREAS**, victimization increases teens' risk for injury, substance abuse, eating disorders, unwanted pregnancy, and suicide; and

**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**, violent behavior typically begins between the ages of 12 and 18, and the severity of intimate partner violence is often greater in cases where the pattern of abuse was established in adolescence; 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**, it is essential to raise community awareness and to provide training for teachers, counselors, and school staff so that they may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs of dating violence; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARRON CASTEEL**, Mayor of the City of New Braunfels, Texas, proclaim the month of February 2019 as

## **TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

and urge citizens to join the Crisis Center of Comal County in promoting healthy teen relationships.

**FURTHERMORE**, we call upon youth and adults to observe Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month with activities and conversations about respectful and non-violent relationships in their homes, schools and communities.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of New Braunfels to be affixed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019.

**CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS**

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**BARRON CASTEEL, Mayor**