TOWN OF JEROME, ARIZONA

POST OFFICE BOX 335, JEROME, ARIZONA 86331
(928) 634-7943

Founded 1876
Incorporated 1899

A Proclamation on National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

WHEREAS, This February, during National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, we stand with those who have known the pain and isolation of an abusive relationship, and we recommit to ending the cycle of teen dating violence that affects too many of our young people.

WHEREAS, Together, it's on all of us to raise regional awareness about teen dating violence and promote safe and healthy relationships.

WHEREAS, females between the ages 16-24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence, experiencing abuse at a rate almost triple the national average; and

WHEREAS, one in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth; and

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, by providing young people with education about healthy relationships and healthy relationship skills and by changing attitudes that perpetuate violence, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit young people, their families, schools and communities regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, everyone has the right to a safe and healthy relationship and to be free from abuse.

WHEREAS, Dating violence transcends gender, race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. It takes many forms, including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, bullying, and shaming, which can occur in person or through electronic communication and social media.

WHEREAS, If you or someone you know is involved in an abusive relationship of any kind, immediate and confidential support is available by calling Verde Valley Sanctuary at (928) 634-2511.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Christina "Alex" Barber, Mayor of the Town of Jerome, Arizona, on behalf of the Town Council, do hereby proclaim February, 2026, as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. I call upon all citizens to support efforts in their communities and schools, and in their own families, to empower young people to develop healthy relationships throughout their lives and to prevent and respond to teen dating violence. It's on all of us.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Jerome, Arizona, to be affixed this 10th day of February 2026.

Christina "Alex" Barber, Mayor of the Town of Jerome

Attest:

Brett Klein, Town Manager / Clerk