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2 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau  
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Councilmember David Grosso

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5 Councilmember Elissa Silverman  
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Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

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8 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray  
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11 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION  
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14 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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17 To recognize February as “Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month” in the  
18 District of Columbia.  
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20 WHEREAS, teen dating violence is an ongoing problem that affects youth in every  
21 community around the nation;  
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23 WHEREAS, the severity of intimate partner violence is often greater in cases where the  
24 pattern of abuse was established in adolescence;  
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26 WHEREAS, in the District of Columbia 35.3% of high school students and 26.6% of  
27 middle school students in 2019 reported experiences of dating violence, including physical,  
28 sexual, and emotional abuse by someone they are dating or going out with in the past year; and  
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30 WHEREAS, young women between the ages of 16 and 24 are especially vulnerable to  
31 intimate partner violence, experiencing abuse at a rate almost triple the national average;  
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33 WHEREAS, one in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical,  
34 emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for  
35 other types of violence affecting youth;  
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37 WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning middle and high school students in  
38 the District of Columbia are more than two times more likely to report experiencing  
39 sexual, physical, and emotional violence from the person they are dating or going out with than  
40 their heterosexual peers;  
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42 WHEREAS, 89% of transgender youth nationally report experiences of dating violence;  
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44 WHEREAS, young people victimized by a dating partner are more likely to experience  
45 disrupted development of self-esteem and body image, resulting in unhealthy dieting behaviors,  
46 risky sexual behavior, and other unsafe practices;

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48 WHEREAS, high school students who experience physical violence in a dating  
49 relationship are more likely to use drugs and alcohol, are at greater risk of suicide, and are much  
50 more likely to carry patterns of abuse into future relationships;

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52 WHEREAS, witnessing violence has been associated with decreased school attendance  
53 and academic performance;

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55 WHEREAS, nearly half of teens who experience dating violence report that incidents of  
56 abuse took place in a school building or on school grounds;

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58 WHEREAS, only 33% of teens who are in an abusive relationship tell anyone about the  
59 abuse, and 82% of parents surveyed either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit  
60 they do not know if it is one;

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62 WHEREAS, it is essential to raise community awareness and to provide training for  
63 teachers, counselors, and school staff so that they may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs  
64 of dating violence;

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66 WHEREAS, by providing young people with education about healthy relationships and  
67 relationship skills and by changing attitudes that support violence, the Council recognizes that  
68 dating violence is preventable;

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70 WHEREAS, Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month benefits young  
71 people, their families, schools, and communities, regardless of socioeconomic status, gender,  
72 sexual orientation, or ethnicity, by bringing attention to the issue and the various forms it can  
73 take; and

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75 WHEREAS, all residents of the District of Columbia have the right to a safe and healthy  
76 relationship and to be free from abuse.

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78 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF  
79 COLUMBIA, that the Council affirms the right of every young person to have safe and healthy  
80 dating or intimate relationships and declares February 2020 as “Teen Dating Violence  
81 Awareness and Prevention Month” in the District of Columbia.

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83 Sec. 2. This resolution may be cited as the “Teen Dating Violence Awareness and  
84 Prevention Month Recognition Resolution of 2020”.

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86 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in  
87 the District of Columbia Register.

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