



PROCLAMATION

Dating Violence Awareness Month

February, 2010

WHEREAS, dating violence is a reality for many young people, and an issue of which many are unaware; and

WHEREAS, one in three young people are affected by physical, sexual, or verbal dating violence, with one in five in a serious relationship reporting having been slapped, pushed, hit, threatened or coerced by a partner, and breakups can be a time of even greater risk even when a relationship was never physically abusive; and

WHEREAS, young people can choose better relationships when they understand that healthy relationships are based on respect and learn to identify early warning signs of an abusive relationship; and

WHEREAS, elimination of dating violence must be achieved through cooperation of individuals, organizations, and communities; and

WHEREAS, **Dating Violence Awareness Month** provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing dating violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victims.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas J. Tomzak, M.D., Mayor of the City of Fredericksburg, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of February, 2010, as Dating Violence Awareness Month.

Thomas J. Tomzak, M.D., Mayor
Fredericksburg, Virginia

