

# Proclamation

*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, youth who experience physical violence in a dating relationship are more likely to use drugs and alcohol, attempt suicide and carry patterns of abuse into future relationships; and*

*WHEREAS, females between the ages 16 and 24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence than any other age group, experiencing abuse at almost triple the national average; and*

*WHEREAS, only 33% of teens who are in an abusive relationship tell anyone; and*

*WHEREAS, 81% of parents either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know if it is; and*

*WHEREAS, by providing young people with education about healthy relationships and changing their attitudes away from supporting violence to embracing mutual respect, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, R.T. RYBAK, Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, do hereby proclaim February 2010 as:*

## National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

*I urge all Minnesotans to respond to and work toward ending teen dating violence by supporting their communities' efforts to empower teens to develop healthier relationships. I encourage community leaders to assist victims in finding and accessing the resources they need, to develop a comprehensive response to dating violence and to engage in discussions with adult and youth community members to promote awareness and prevention of the quiet but heinous crime of teen dating violence in their communities.*



Mayor of Minneapolis

