



PROCLAMATION

FLORIDA HEALTHY TEEN RELATIONSHIP MONTH

WHEREAS, each year, approximately 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner; and

WHEREAS, data from the 2017 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report indicates that 8.4 percent of students experienced physical dating violence and 9.6 percent of students reported being threatened, controlled, or made to feel unsafe by someone they were dating; and

WHEREAS, many teens do not report dating violence because they fear the abuse may escalate and that they will not be believed; and

WHEREAS, victims of dating violence are more likely to experience the symptoms of anxiety and depression and engage in unhealthy behaviors, such as drinking and smoking; and

WHEREAS, dating violence can be prevented, and teen dating violence prevention instruction is required through Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, partnerships between state agencies, nonprofits and private organizations, law enforcement and the courts, health care, faith-based communities, and educational institutions create a coordinated, efficient, and cost-effective system of support to prevent teen dating violence; and

WHEREAS, Florida Healthy Teen Relationship Month is an opportunity to increase awareness, social support, and education on healthy dating relationships and provides encouragement for all Floridians to work together to prevent teen dating violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Sumter County, Florida hereby proclaims:

The Month of February 2021, as:

FLORIDA HEALTHY TEEN RELATIONSHIP MONTH

DONE AND PROCLAIMED this 16th day of February 2021, Sumter County, Florida.

Attest:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SUMTER COUNTY**

**Caroline Alrestimawi
Deputy Clerk**

**Garry Breedon
Chairman**