



Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas:

Every February, young people, their loved ones and other caring individuals join together to raise awareness about the issue of teen dating violence through Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

WHEREAS:

The prevention program at Crime Victim Services began in 2012 and provides culturally appropriate educational curriculum to youth and adults with the express purpose of preventing relationship violence and cultivating a culture where consent and respect for one another is most important: and

WHEREAS:

Dating violence is very common especially among teens and young adults. One in three teens in the US will experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse from someone they're in a relationship with before they become adults, and nearly half of college women report experiencing violent or abusive dating behaviors; and

WHEREAS:

Teen dating violence takes many forms, including physical or sexual assault, stalking, coercive and controlling behavior, emotional abuse, harassment and exploitation. It can occur in person, online or through various forms of technology; and

WHEREAS:

Young people who are survivors of teen dating violence can suffer from depression, substance abuse, risk of suicide, eating disorders and other struggles. Survivors of teenage dating violence are more likely to be revictimized as adults. These effects are compounded for girls and young women of color, who are less often recognized as survivors of dating and sexual violence and face additional barriers to seeking help; and

WHEREAS:

The City of Lima is committed to supporting programs that are proven to help teens develop safe and healthy relationships; and

NOW THEREFORE: I, Sharetta Smith, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio do hereby proclaim February as

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

in the City of Lima, Ohio and encourage all citizens to have meaningful conversations about healthy relationships and how to support someone who may be experiencing relationship violence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Lima, Ohio, this 2nd day of February, 2022.

Handwritten signature of Sharetta Smith

SHARETTA SMITH, MAYOR
CITY OF LIMA, OHIO

