



**HONORARY PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2024
AS “TEEN DATING VIOLENCE ACTION AND PREVENTION MONTH”**

WHEREAS, Teen Dating Violence Action and Prevention Month calls attention to the fact that dating violence is widespread and impacts every young person in Arroyo Grande; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 11 female teens and 1 in 15 male teens reported experiencing physical violence in the last year; 1 in 9 female and 1 in 36 male high school students report having experienced sexual dating violence in the last year; and 1 in 3 adolescents report verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual dating abuse each year; and

WHEREAS, dating violence affect LGBTQ+ youth at rates higher than their cisgender and heterosexual peers; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of students who experience dating violence have reported that some of the abuse took place on school grounds; and

WHEREAS, teen dating violence has been linked to other forms of violence and aggression, and survivors are more likely to suffer from eating disorders, drug and alcohol use, dropout, teen pregnancy, future abusive relationships and suicide; and

WHEREAS, Lumina Alliance continues to provide a safe environment for young people affected by teen dating violence, with crisis intervention, counseling, legal services, safe emergency housing and local community prevention programs, such as Close to Home; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Teen Dating Violence Action and Prevention Month will benefit schools, communities, families, and all youth; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arroyo Grande joins Lumina Alliance and Close to Home and other advocates and communities across the country in taking action to prevent dating violence, and acknowledges that each day of the year is an opportunity to create change for the future.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Caren Ray Russom, Mayor of the City of Arroyo Grande, in recognition of the important work done by dating violence programs, do hereby proclaim the month of February as Teen Dating Violence Action and Prevention Month, and support communities that empower teens to develop healthy and violence-free relationships throughout their lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Arroyo Grande to be affixed this 13th day of February 2024.

CAREN RAY RUSSOM, MAYOR

