WHEREAS: Eleven percent of high school students and six percent of middle school students throughout the United States reported being physically abused by a date sometime in their lifetimes; and
WHEREAS: Almost half of the teenagers throughout the United States, aged 13-18, reported having a controlling partner, while 80% reported knowing someone who has been controlled by a partner; and
WHEREAS: Twenty-four people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States; and
WHEREAS: It is estimated that more than one in two women and one in four men throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts experience domestic violence within their lifetimes; and
WHEREAS: Over two thousand unduplicated incidents of sexual assaults were reported to rape crisis centers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012; and
WHEREAS: The Massachusetts 2012 Domestic Violence Census, with 54 organizations represented, reported providing services to a staggering 1,752 adults and children on the one day they were assessed; and
WHEREAS: Between 2003-2013, there were 277 domestic violence-related homicides in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with 60% of the victims being women or girls; and
WHEREAS: The Boston City Council proclaimed the City of Boston a “Human Rights City” on April 20, 2011 and, as a Human Rights City, is a model for communities around the world; and
WHEREAS: Public safety officials, including members of the Police and Sheriff departments, along with city and local agencies, courts and other local government entities constitute the first line of defense against domestic violence for many individuals; and
WHEREAS: Domestic violence encompasses various forms of abuse not always recognizable to members of the community, nor do victims or perpetrators of domestic violence fit a particular stereotype associated with the issue; Therefore, Be It
RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council, in meeting assembled, acknowledges that there is no singular, stereotypical example of domestic violence and that this issue affects every segment of society, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, or annual income and recognizes that freedom from domestic violence is a fundamental human right that no person shall infringe upon.

By: [Signature]

Attest: [Signature]

Offered by: [Signature]

Date: May 7, 2014