

**Proclamation
National Stalking Awareness Month
January 2016**

WHEREAS, under the laws of all fifty states, the U.S. Territories, the District of Columbia, and federal government, stalking is a crime; and

WHEREAS, 7.5 million people were stalked in one year in the United States, and the majority of victims are stalked by someone they know; and

WHEREAS, 3 in 4 women killed by an intimate partner had been stalked by that intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, many stalking victims lose time from work and experience serious psychological distress and lost productivity at a much higher rate than the general population; and

WHEREAS, many stalking victims are forced to protect themselves by relocating, changing their identities, changing jobs, and obtaining protection orders; and

WHEREAS, many stalkers use technology - such as cell phones, global positioning systems (GPS), cameras, and spyware - to monitor and track their victims; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for great public awareness about the nature, criminality, and potential lethality of stalking; and

WHEREAS, criminal justice systems can enhance their responses to stalking by regular training of law enforcement officers and aggressive investigation and prosecution of the crime; and

WHEREAS, laws and public policies must be continually adapted to keep pace with new tactics used by stalkers; and

WHEREAS, communities can better combat stalking by adopting multidisciplinary responses by teams of local agencies and organizations and by providing more and better victim services; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Chicago is joining forces with victim service providers, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout DuPage County and the United States to observe **National Stalking Awareness Month**.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ruben Pineda, Mayor of West Chicago, do hereby proclaim the month of January 2016 in West Chicago as:

“NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH”

and I and applaud the efforts of the many victim service providers, police officers, prosecutors, national and community organizations, and private sector supporters for their efforts in promoting awareness about stalking.

PROCLAIMED this 4th day of January, 2016.

Mayor Ruben Pineda

City Clerk Nancy Smith

