**Zonta Says NO**

**16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE**

WHEREAS, we as citizens of this community, recognize the worldwide problems of violence against women occurs even here in (city), (state); and

WHEREAS, gender violence is traumatic to the body, mind and spirit and can prevent people from being fully active participants at home and in the world; and

WHEREAS, the health of parents and caregivers is critical to the overall health and wellbeing of their families and the larger community; and

WHEREAS, gender violence costs the nation billions of dollars annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters and foster care, sick leave, absenteeism and non productivity; and

WHEREAS, in spite of some progress, we need only to look at our newspapers or watch a television newscast to see the unfortunate truth that gender violence has not yet been eliminated here in (city), or around the world; and

WHEREAS, we support efforts of individuals and join organizations, such as the Zonta Club of (your club name), to raise awareness, stimulate discussion, and advocate for local solutions that will curb gender violence; and

WHEREAS, these local people join thousands of others from around the world to assert that the right of women and men to be free of violence is a fundamental human right.

NOW THEREFORE, I (mayor’s name), by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of (your city name), do hereby proclaim the 16 days between International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women on November 25th and International Human Rights Day on December 10th as the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. During these 16 days, all citizens are urged to support work to end gender violence and to eliminate the detrimental consequences gender violence has on the wellbeing of our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of (your city name), this \_\_\_ day of November, 2013.