

PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH
JANUARY 2012

WHEREAS, stalking is a serious and pervasive crime that affects millions of Americans each year in communities throughout our country; and

WHEREAS, stalking can happen to anyone, and most victims are stalked by someone they know; and

WHEREAS, persistent stalking and harassment can lead to serious consequences for victims, whose lives may be upended by fear, and who may be forced to take extreme measures to protect themselves (changing jobs, relocating to a new home or assuming a new identity); and

WHEREAS, although we have gained a better understanding of stalking and its prevalence since the passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, this dangerous and criminal behavior is still often mischaracterized as harmless; and

WHEREAS, stalking can be a difficult crime to recognize, and the majority of survivors do not report stalking victimization to the police, in part because perpetrators use a variety of tactics to intimidate and harass their victims; and

WHEREAS, stalking affects too many Americans to remain a hidden crime, and a strong stand is required in order to both support victims and hold perpetrators accountable; and

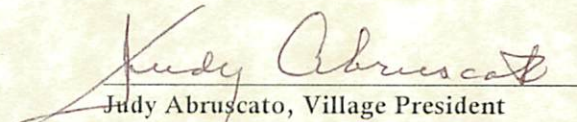
WHEREAS, we must work together to educate the public about the potentially deadly nature of stalking, to encourage victims to seek help, to inform criminal justice professionals about the intersection of stalking and other dangerous crimes, and to support law enforcement in their efforts; and

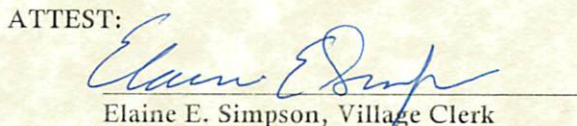
WHEREAS, National Stalking Awareness Month—January 2012—provides an opportunity for all to learn to recognize the signs of stalking, acknowledge stalking as a serious crime, provide encouragement to victims to speak out, and resolve to provide communities that are secure and supportive for victims and survivors; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Judy Abruscato, President of the Village of Wheeling, do hereby proclaim January 2012 as **National Stalking Awareness Month** in the Village of Wheeling, and encourage our residents to learn to recognize the signs of stalking, resolve to support victims and survivors, and urge those impacted not to be afraid to speak out or ask for help.

DATED at the Village of Wheeling this 3rd day of January, 2012.




Judy Abruscato, Village President

ATTEST:

Elaine E. Simpson, Village Clerk