

**DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2013 AS
“STALKING AWARENESS MONTH”
IN THE CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VIRGINIA**

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

WHEREAS, 3.4 million people over the age of 18 are stalked each year in the United States, and nearly 75% of victims are stalked by someone they know; and

WHEREAS, three in four 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 increasingly sophisticated devices—such as global positioning systems, cameras, and computer spyware—to 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, Stalking Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing stalking and to show support for The James House, the accredited, nonprofit crisis center that provides cost-free, confidential support, advocacy, and education for people in Colonial Heights affected by stalking.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C. Scott Davis, Mayor of the City of Colonial Heights, do hereby proclaim the month of January 2013 as “Stalking Awareness Month” in the City of Colonial Heights, Virginia and encourage the citizens to work together to eliminate stalking from our community.

C. Scott Davis, Mayor

Attest:

Pamela B. Wallace, City Clerk