

January 16, 2021

The Honorable Brian Farkas  
16 West Jones Street, Room 1421  
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

Dear Representative Farkas,

My name is Latasha Brown, and I'm the current board chair of New Beginnings, a nonprofit based here in Greenville and dedicated to helping survivors of intimate partner violence in every corner of Pitt County rebuild their lives after leaving an abuser. It was a pleasure to meet you last year at Jane and Gerald Smith's Super Bowl party; congratulations on your victory this past November!

**On behalf of our entire organization, I'm writing to extend our heartfelt invitation to attend our virtual Valentine's Day event, "Love Stories: Five Survivors Speak Out," on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, from 2-3:30pm.** At this event, we'll hear from speakers ranging in age, gender, race, ethnicity, and religion about how they imagined romantic love growing up, how their ideas about love changed as they started having romantic relationships, and how they think about love now.

We're excited to have over 180 pre-registrations for this free event, which serves as a virtual kickoff of a new public awareness campaign aimed at ensuring every survivor of domestic violence in Pitt County knows they are not alone and can turn to us for support. At the end of the event every attendee will receive a social media kit with [#newbeginnings](#) content suggestions to share during Valentine's Day weekend. By having attendees – and hopefully, influencers like you - share this content, we hope people who find themselves being pressured to do things they don't want to do "because it's Valentine's Day" and people for whom the day is hard because they aren't spending it with a truly loving partner feel less alone and more empowered.

As you are likely aware, the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in a steep increase in the incidence of intimate partner violence. Now more than ever, we hope that every Pitt County elected official will join us in demonstrating their support for survivors.

Please [sign up at this link](#) to attend the event – and always feel free to contact me directly by email at [boardchair@newbeginning.org](mailto:boardchair@newbeginning.org) or on my cell, 252-123-4567, with any questions about the event, our work, or (especially) about policy issues related to domestic violence.

Sincerely yours,

*Latasha Brown*

Latasha Brown  
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