

# Proclamation Declaring April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month

**Whereas,** future prosperity depends on nurturing the healthy development of the more than the children currently living, growing, and learning within our community; and

**Whereas,** research shows that safe, nurturing relationships and stimulating, stable environments improve brain development and child wellbeing, while neglectful or abusive experiences and unstable or stressful environments increase the odds of poor childhood outcomes; and

**Whereas,** the abuse and neglect of children can cause severe, costly and lifelong problems affecting all of society, including physical and mental health problems, school failure and criminal behavior; and

**Whereas,** research also shows that parents and caregivers who have social networks and know how to seek help in times of trouble are more resilient and better able to provide safe environments and nurturing experiences for their children; and

**Whereas,** individuals, businesses, schools, and faith-based and community organizations must make children a top priority and take action to support the physical, social, emotional and educational development and competency of all children; and

**Whereas,** during the month of April, the in collaboration with their citywide partners will be engaging individuals and communities throughout the city in a coordinated effort to prevent child abuse and neglect by promoting awareness of healthy child development, positive parenting practices and the types of support families need within their communities; and

**Whereas,** I encourage all citizens of to recognize that prevention starts with each of us;

**Now, therefore, I,** of the , do hereby proclaim the month of April 2024 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month."