

❧ PROCLAMATION ❧

Whereas, Child Abuse results in significant trauma to children, families and society as it causes serious illness and injury, impairment of physical, intellectual and emotional functioning and well-being or even death; and

Whereas, Children of St. Augustine deserve to live and grow in healthy, nurturing environments, free from threats of violence and harm; and

Whereas, Child Abuse prevention services reduces the cost society must bear in dealing with the results of child abuse; and

Whereas, Prevention of abuse requires neighborhoods and communities to be attentive to the problems of families and be willing to help when help is needed; and

Whereas, During the month of April, the City of St. Augustine public and private sector agencies, childcare professionals, child advocates and residents promote community involvement to reduce parental isolation and conduct awareness efforts to educate parents and prevent abuse; and

Whereas, All citizens of the City of St. Augustine are encouraged to work in a coordinated comprehensive manner that provides a continuum of services for children from birth through transition to adulthood and engage in activities that strengthen families and communities to provide the optimal environment for children to grow healthy and thrive;

Whereas, The City of St. Augustine and its multiple non-profit and for profit organizations representing many different children's issues are participating in activities to create a shared vision of commitment to its children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT Proclaimed by the City Commission of the City of Saint Augustine, Florida that April 2009, be designated as **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, to be affixed on this 23rd day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, in the four hundred and forty-third year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City