



WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every aspect of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and,

WHEREAS, all children have the right to grow up in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment free from abuse and neglect; and,

WHEREAS, children are the key to our community's future success, prosperity, and enriched quality of life, and while children are our most valuable resource, they are also our most vulnerable; and,

WHEREAS, the majority of child abuse cases arise from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged, aware, and supportive community; and,

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for its victims; and,

WHEREAS, communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development, and concrete resources needed to cope with stress and nurture their children, are helping to ensure that all children grow to their full potential.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners proclaims the month of April 2021 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

and calls upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders, and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to support families, thereby strengthening the community in which we live.

Tom Keigher, Chairman

Chad Brown

Kim Johnson

Allen R. Fraley, Vice-Chairman

Tracy L. Philbeck

Bob Hovis

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 27th Day of April 2021