

**RESOLUTION NO. RS2018-1156**

**A resolution to raise awareness by recognizing April 2018 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.**

WHEREAS, abuse and neglect are suffered by children in our communities, regardless of age, race, gender or economic circumstance; and

WHEREAS, children are our most valuable asset and cannot defend themselves from maltreatment which can lead to social problems, drug addiction, family violence, prostitution, and crime; and

WHEREAS, child abuse continues to be one of the most urgent family, health, and social problems in our community, crossing all social, cultural, and economic barriers; and

WHEREAS, the United States has one of the worst records among industrialized nations averaging between four and seven child deaths every day, and every 10 seconds a child is reported abused or neglected; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the State of Tennessee had more than 72,000 reported cases of abuse, and Davidson County had more than 6,000 reported cases of abuse; and

WHEREAS, the nation, the State of Tennessee and the Metropolitan Government face a continuing need to support innovative programs providing early intervention services to prevent child abuse and assist parents and families in which abuse occurs; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships among families, social service agencies, schools, religious and civic organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as CASA, Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Kids on the Block, Metropolitan Department of Social Services, Nashville Children's Alliance, OUR KIDS, Oasis Center, Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee (PCAT), Sexual Assault Center, Tennessee Department of Children's Services, and others, provide leadership and support services that promote hope and empowerment for families; and

WHEREAS, our communities are stronger when all citizens become aware of child abuse and become involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe and nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Children's Alliance will sponsor a walk on Saturday, April 7, 2018 to raise awareness of child sexual and physical abuse; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that Metropolitan Government and its residents focus their attention on problems of child abuse, and participate in agency initiatives every day during April to support the fight for the protection of all children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as proclaiming April 2018 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

INTRODUCED BY:

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Tanaka Vercher  
Member of Council