



Proclamation



WHEREAS, South Carolina's future prosperity and quality of life depend on the healthy development of the 1.1 million children residing in the communities across our state; and

WHEREAS, child abuse is a serious public health issue with wide-ranging societal consequences, as data show the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of costly medical, emotional, psychological and behavioral issues into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect must be a priority that requires individuals, families, child-serving organizations, schools, faith-based groups, businesses, government agencies, and civic leaders to support the physical, emotional, social, and educational well-being of all children; and

WHEREAS, parents and caregivers who have a support system of family and friends, know where to find resources, and understand how to remain resilient in challenging times are best-equipped to provide safe, nurturing environments for their children; and

WHEREAS, statewide and community prevention programs serve as proven and effective ways to reduce child abuse and neglect no matter the geographic region, race or ethnicity, and economic status; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2018, there were 20,198 children in founded investigations of child maltreatment in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the State of South Carolina in conjunction with concerned citizens throughout the state, designates the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month urging all residents to dedicate themselves to protect quality of life for every child.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Carl M. (Mel) Pennington IV, Mayor of the City of Hartsville, South Carolina, hereby proclaim April 2019 as


"CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH"

in conjunction with concerned citizens throughout The City of Hartsville to protect future generations by providing help and hope to our children and families.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the seal of the City of Hartsville.


Carl M. (Mel) Pennington IV, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Sherron L. Skipper, City Clerk