

## TOWN OF APEX CAROLINA

## Proclamation

## Child Abuse Prevention Month 2023

from the Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, Children are vital to our state's future success, prosperity, and quality of life as well as being our most vulnerable assets; and,

WHEREAS, Child abuse is a horrific experience, impacting more than 600,000 children in the United States in 2021, with over 21,000 of these occurring in North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, All children deserve to have the safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development;

WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect is a serious problem which primarily affects the most vulnerable children, with the majority of victims nationally being 6 years of age or younger. This behavior leads to immense physical, psychological, and emotional trauma that can affect victims throughout their lives; and,

WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both current and future quality of life of a community; and,

WHEREAS, Communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children ensure all children grow to their full potential; and,

WHEREAS, Effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith agencies, and business community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor of Apex, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim, The Month of April 2023, Child Abuse Prevention Month in the Town of Apex, and urge all residents to join me in dedicating ourselves to preventing abuse towards children and improving their quality of life.

I hereby set my hand and have caused the Seal of the Town of Apex, North Carolina, to be affixed this the 28th day of March 2023

Jacques Gilbert, Mayor