

**WHEREAS**, every child is a precious and unique gift who deserves the security of a loving and nurturing home; and

**WHEREAS**, every child deserves to grow up in a nurturing environment, free from abuse, neglect, violence, or endangerment of any kind; and

**WHEREAS,** children are vital to our community's future success, prosperity, and quality of life as well as being our most valuable assets; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect cause serious harm to child development and have lifelong effects that endanger safety, hinder permanency in relationships, and reduce well-being, creating greater demands on society; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse is considered to be one of the most serious public health problems with scientific studies documenting the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral disorders; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect are a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community; and

**WHEREAS**, communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting, child development, and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and how to nurture their children will 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, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Connie B. Schroeder, Mayor of the City of Bastrop, Texas, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2023 as:

## **Child Abuse Prevention Month**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Bastrop, Texas to be affixed this  $28^{th}$  day of March, 2023.

Connie B. Schroeder, Mayor

