

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL AS “CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH”
AND “SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH” IN CITY OF BAY CITY**

The month of April signifies our commitment to supporting survivors of sexual assault and child abuse while encouraging strong criminal justice and civil system responses to end the epidemic of violence and abuse in our communities.

Whereas, violence and abuse remain a significant public health issue, but communities may thrive by establishing partnerships between survivors, social service organizations, law enforcement, government and civic agencies and victim advocates; and

Whereas, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will experience unwanted sexual experiences in their lifetime; and 1 in 6 boys and 1 in 4 girls will experience child abuse before the age of 18; and

Whereas, abuse can have long-term damaging effects on the survivor that leave a mark on family, friends, and the community at large; and

Whereas, each year, the month of April is dedicated to recognizing survivors of sexual assault and child abuse while also providing prevention, awareness, education and accessible resources; and

Whereas, we dedicate ourselves to protecting vulnerable members of our community and encourage all citizens to learn more about the ongoing efforts in prevention and awareness. The Crisis Center and Department of Family & Protective Services asks the community to join in promoting public awareness and prevention throughout the month of April, including:

- ‘Start by Believing Day’ on April 3rd to support those who have been the victims of sexual violence
- Light up the Square in Bay City, April 12th, to recognize survivors in our own communities
- ‘Go Blue Day’, April 14th- wear blue to support awareness of child abuse
- ‘Denim Day’, April 24th- Wear denim in support of survivors of sexual violence

Together, we can create a better future for children, families, and all citizens of Bay City.

***Month of April 2024
“Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Awareness Month”
in Bay City, Texas.***

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Bay City, Texas to be affixed on this 9^h day of April, 2024.

Robert K. Nelson
Mayor
City of Bay City, Texas