



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, South Carolina's future prosperity is dependent on nurturing the healthy development of the 1.1 million children currently residing in the diverse communities across our state; and

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

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2022, there were 9,031 children in founded investigations of child maltreatment in South Carolina; and

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

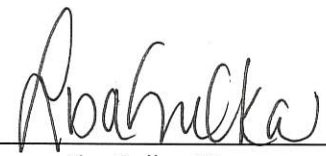
WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect must be a priority that requires individuals, families, youth-serving organizations, faith-based groups, businesses, government agencies, and everyone that makes up our community to support the physical, emotional, and educational development of all children and their families; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention exists in communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development, and concrete resources they need to cope with the stress and nurture their children, help to ensure that all children can grow to their full potential; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lisa Sulka, Mayor of the Town of Bluffton, along with Town Council, in conjunction with Hopeful Horizons, Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA), and support service programs around the state, designates the month of April as "Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month".

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, have hereto set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Bluffton to be affixed this 11th day of April 2023.




Lisa Sulka, Mayor