

Office of the City Commission

Proclamation

WHEREAS, April is recognized nationally as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and National Volunteer Week is observed annually during the month of April; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Guardian ad Litem Office provides legal representation for abused, abandoned, and neglected children in dependency court proceedings throughout the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida law, the Florida Guardian ad Litem Office utilizes a multidisciplinary team approach to provide legal representation for abused, abandoned, and neglected children, including a Guardian ad Litem Attorney, a child welfare professional, and, when available, a trained volunteer or pro bono attorney from the child's community; and

WHEREAS, during the last fiscal year, for the first time in Florida's history, 100 percent of children were represented, and every child had a lawyer; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Guardian ad Litem Office achieved a 97 percent appellate success rate, underscoring the strength and quality of its legal representation of children; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Guardian ad Litem Office is supported by more than 8,000 volunteers statewide, who collectively donated over 194,000 hours of service and traveled more than 1.1 million miles during the last fiscal year in support of Florida's children; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Guardian ad Litem Office – Circuit 17, serving Broward County, is supported by dedicated local volunteers who are a valued member of the multidisciplinary team representing abused, abandoned, and neglected children and who provide information to the dependency courts regarding each child's best interests; and

WHEREAS, research consistently demonstrates that children with a Guardian ad Litem are more likely to achieve permanency, less likely to re-enter foster care, and more likely to experience improved long-term outcomes.

WHEREAS, NOW, THEREFORE I, James Curran, Mayor of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, and the City Commission, do hereby proclaim, the month of April as

“Child Abuse Prevention and Volunteer Appreciation Month”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, to be affixed on this 28th day of April 2026.

James Curran

Mayor, City of Cooper City