



**Borough of Highlands**

# **r o c l a m a t i o n**

## ***Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month***

**WHEREAS**, there are about two million youth aged 17 and younger, living in New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that one in 100 children experiences abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, childhood maltreatment and abuse are traumatic events that increase an individual's adverse childhood experiences, which, without intervention, can result in life-long negative emotional, physical, financial, educational, and social health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse is a significant public health crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, all children deserve to be nurtured, protected, and free from physical or emotional harm; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Highlands, State of New Jersey, and the New Jersey Department of Children and Families believe that healthy families raise healthy children; and

**WHEREAS**, as noted by the United States Administration for Children and Families' 2020 review of child protective services across the nation, the rate at which children are maltreated in New Jersey is lower than the national average; and

**WHEREAS**, all sectors of the community, including law enforcement, medical professionals, schools, courts, and media outlets, as well as numerous public and private agencies, have joined forces to promote public awareness and community involvement in keeping children and their families safe, healthy, and connected during the month of April and throughout the year;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Carolyn Broullon, Mayor of the Borough of Highlands, hereby declare the Month of April as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month in Highlands.

Mayor Carolyn Broullon

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023