

Proclamation

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH APRIL 2026

- WHEREAS,** *Lake City's future prosperity depends on nurturing the healthy development of the children currently residing in Lake City; and*
- WHEREAS,** *the abuse and neglect of children can cause severe, costly and lifelong problems, including physical and mental health problems, school failure and criminal behavior, which affects all of society; and*
- WHEREAS,** *research shows that parents and caregivers who have social networks and know how to seek help in times of trouble are more resilient and better able to provide safe environments and nurturing experiences for their children; and*
- WHEREAS,** *individuals, businesses, schools, and faith-based and community organizations must make children a top priority and take action to support the physical, social, emotional and educational development and competency of all children; and*
- WHEREAS,** *children deserve the opportunity to grow and thrive in healthy environments, free from threats of violence and harm; and*
- WHEREAS,** *during the month of April, public and private sector agencies, childcare professionals, child advocates, and residents will be increasing the public's awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention.*

NOW, THEREFORE, *I, Noah Walker, Mayor of the City of Lake City, Florida do hereby proclaim the month of April 2026 "Child Abuse Prevention Month" the City of Lake City and, in doing so, urge all citizens to join me in observing this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.*



**Seal of the City of Lake City
State of Florida**

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed this 6th day of April 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noah Walker", is written over a horizontal line.

**Noah Walker, Mayor
City of Lake City**