

**PROCLAMATION**  
**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Madison, Alabama, wishes to honor the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC) for their commitment to servant leadership and recognize their works in child abuse response and prevention as they raise awareness in the month of April for Child Abuse Prevention Month; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1985, Former Congressman Robert E. "Bud" Cramer (AL), who was then a District Attorney in Madison County, Alabama, saw the need to create a better system to help abused children. The social service and criminal justice systems, at the time, were not working together in an effective manner that children adding to the children's emotional distress; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 10 Children will be sexually abused before the age of 18, 1 in 5 children are solicited sexually while on the internet, 20% of children who experience abuse are sexually abused before the age of 8, More than 90% of children are abused by a family member or someone they know and trust, and 80% of child sexual abuse victims delay disclosure of the abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCAC serves as a model for more than 1,100 Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) operating in the US and more than 41 countries worldwide. The CAC model of a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) approach, developed through the vision of Former Congressman Cramer and a group of key individuals, pulled together law enforcement, criminal justice, child protective services, and medical and mental health workers onto one coordinated team; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCAC Training Center trains thousands of people each year, from the United States and around the world on how to recognize and support maltreated children. The NCAC trained more than 23,000 child abuse response professionals from all 50 states and 9 countries in 2023 and more than 300,000 professionals from more than 100 countries since 1985; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCAC through the work of its Client and Family Services, Professional Services and Multidisciplinary Team serve as a beacon of hope for thousands of child abuse victims every year

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

I, Paul Finley, Mayor of the City of Madison, Alabama do hereby proclaim the month of

**APRIL 2024**

**as**

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

in the City of Madison, Alabama and encourage the citizens of this great community to show that they care by committing themselves to supporting the right of all children to live a life free from sexual and physical abuse.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Madison, Alabama to be affixed, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2024.

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Paul Finley, Mayor

