

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Pahokee recognizes that mental health is an essential part of overall health and well-being, affecting how we think, feel, and act as we navigate the complexities of life; and

WHEREAS, trauma is a widespread experience that can have profound and lasting effects on physical, emotional, and social health, particularly within communities that have faced systemic challenges or historical hardships; and

WHEREAS, Trauma-Informed Care is a compassionate framework that shifts the conversation from "What is wrong with you?" to "What happened to you?"—prioritizing safety, trustworthiness, and empowerment for all residents; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Pahokee deserve access to a supportive environment where mental health struggles are met with understanding rather than stigma, and where recovery is seen as a tangible and achievable goal; and

WHEREAS, by promoting awareness and adopting trauma-informed practices, our city departments, educators, healthcare providers, and law enforcement can better serve our citizens with empathy and resilience; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pahokee is committed to fostering a "Community of Hope" where every individual feels seen, heard, and supported in their journey toward healing.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Keith W. Babb, Jr., Mayor of the City of Pahokee, Florida, on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2026 as **Mental Health Awareness & Trauma-Informed Care Month**, and encourage all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, reducing stigma, and implementing trauma-informed practices to build a stronger, more resilient Pahokee.

In official recognition whereof, I hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Pahokee to be affixed this 28th day of April 2026.



Keith W. Babb, Jr.

Mayor Keith W. Babb, Jr.

Isabelle J. McDonald

Vice Mayor Isabelle J. McDonald

Sanquetta Cowan-Williams

Commissioner Sanquetta Cowan-Williams

Everett D. McPherson, Sr.

Commissioner Everett D. McPherson, Sr

James H. Scott

Commissioner James H. Scott