



## **MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION**

### **DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 2022 AS FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, in 2004, Mikayla Tester-Olson, a 5-year-old was murdered by her biological father during an unsupervised, court-ordered parenting time despite John Tester's abusive behavior and her mother's pleas to the court to protect her; and, in 2020, Autumn Hallow, an 8-year-old, was murdered by her biological father and step-mother during an unsupervised, court-ordered parenting time despite their abusive behavior and her mother's pleas to the court to protect her; and

WHEREAS, to honor Mikayla, Autumn and all of the 864 children who have been murdered by a divorcing or separating parent, unfortunately were among the 58,000 U.S. children annually, a conservative estimate, who are at risk, due to being court ordered into unsupervised visitation with an abusive parent; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Family Court Awareness Month Committee (FCAMC) is to increase awareness on the importance of empirically-based education and training on domestic violence, childhood trauma, child sexual abuse, coercive control, post separation abuse for all professionals working on cases within the family court system; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the FCAMC is to increase awareness on the importance of using scientifically valid, evidence-based, treatment programs and services that are proven in terms of safety, effectiveness, and therapeutic value; and

WHEREAS, the mission at the FCAMC is to educate judges and other family court professionals on evidence-based, peer-reviewed research. Such research is a critical component to making decisions that are truly in the best interest of children. This research includes The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study; Child Custody Evaluators' Beliefs About Domestic Abuse Allegations; and Child Custody Outcomes in Cases Involving Parental Alienation and Abuse Allegations.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Robert Nelson, Mayor of the City of Spring Lake Park, do hereby proclaim November 2022 as

### **FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH**

in the City of Spring Lake Park and do hereby encourage all residents to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the harm of children in the hands of family members and to honor and value the lives of children.

Dated this seventeenth day of October, two thousand twenty-two.

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Robert Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Daniel R. Buchholtz, City Clerk