



**BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF THUNDERBOLT**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**“CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH”**

**WHEREAS**, According to Chatham County Child Protective Services reports 3,000 children were the subject of maltreatment from October of 2023 to September of 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims of abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, Effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed by prioritizing partnerships with human service agencies, schools, faith communities, law enforcement agencies, health care providers, civic organizations, and the business community; and

**WHEREAS**, Child abuse is a public health issue with serious societal consequences, as data shows the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of costly medical, emotional, psychological and behavioral problems into adulthood; and

**WHEREAS**, We need to instill protective factors which are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children, and;

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Thunderbolt wants all children to have safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities that foster healthy growth and development; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR DANA WILLIAMS & COUNCIL**, do hereby call upon all of our citizens to observe **CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH** in the month of April and urge all of our residents to dedicate themselves to protect the quality of life for every child..

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Thunderbolt to be affixed this **8th day of April 2026**.

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Mayor Dana Williams Town of Thunderbolt