

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, When caregivers, families, communities and government agencies work together to create safe, stable and nurturing environments for all children, because childhood lasts a lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, research demonstrates that building family protective factors – social and emotional competence of children, knowledge of parenting and child development, social connections, parental resilience and concrete supports in times of need – promotes the optimal development of children and reduces the likelihood of child abuse and neglect; and

**WHEREAS**, child maltreatment can be reduced by ensuring families are supported in building protective factors through strengths-based policies, programming and public awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, during the month of April, we embrace Pinwheels for Prevention® as the pinwheel has come to serve as the physical embodiment, or reminder, of the great childhoods we want for all children; and

**WHEREAS**, we can prevent child abuse and neglect through optimal child development by promoting child, family and community strengths; and

**WHEREAS**, this April the city of Watertown joins organizations throughout the state that support children and families in recognizing National Child Abuse Prevention Month as Family Strengthening Month.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Emily McFarland, Mayor of the City of Watertown do hereby proclaim April 2024, as

## Family Strengthening Month

in Watertown, and urge everyone able to do so to observe this month.



Given under my hand and the seal of the  
City of Watertown, State of Wisconsin,  
this 1st day of April, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily McFarland", written over a horizontal line.

Emily McFarland, Mayor

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