



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Karen Howard, Chair
Katie Kenlan, Vice Chair
David Delaney
Franklin Gomez Flores
Amanda Robertson

COUNTY MANAGER: Bryan Thompson

Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners Proclaiming April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Chatham County

WHEREAS, children are vital to our state and county's future success, prosperity, and quality of life, as well as being our most vulnerable assets; and

WHEREAS, all children deserve to have the safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development; and

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of our community; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), at least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse or neglect in the past year in the United States, which is likely an underestimate because many cases go unreported; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, more than 1,800 children in the United States died of abuse or neglect, according to the CDC; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County Child Protective Services accepted 349 reports for child abuse, neglect, and/or dependency in fiscal year 2023-24; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of factors that may contribute to child abuse and neglect, including substance misuse, mental health issues, domestic violence, neighborhood poverty, and parental history of abuse; and

WHEREAS, communities that provide parents with social support, knowledge of parenting and child development, and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children ensure all children grow to their full potential; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among residents, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners that April 2025 is proclaimed Child Abuse Prevention Month in Chatham County and call upon all residents, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

Adopted, this the 17th day of March, 2025.

Karen Howard, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Jenifer K. Johnson, Clerk to the Board

Integrity – Respect – Collaboration – Community – Equity – Service – Accountability