



Established 1771

CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mike Dasher, Chair
Karen Howard, Vice Chair
Franklin Gomez Flores
David Delaney
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COUNTY MANAGER

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Proclamation of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

DECLARING APRIL 2024 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

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, at least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse or neglect in the past year in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County Child Protective Services accepted 312 reports for child abuse, neglect, and/or dependency, representing 591 unique children in fiscal year 2022-23; 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 the 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, let it be proclaimed that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners do hereby declare April 2024 as 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 15th day of April.

Mike Dasher, Chair
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Jenifer K. Johnson, MMC, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners