



A PROCLAMATION

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SMYRNA

In Recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month and National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Whereas, children are our most valuable resource, and they are also our most vulnerable. All of Georgia's children have a right to be safe and an opportunity to thrive, learn and grow in an environment that fosters healthy development; and

Whereas, in Federal fiscal year 2021, 3.9 million reports were made to child protective services; and child abuse and neglect are a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

Whereas, child abuse and neglect can be prevented by supporting and strengthening Georgia's families, thus preventing the far-reaching effects of abuse and neglect, and providing the opportunity for children to develop healthy, trusting family bonds, and consequently, building the foundations of communities; and

Whereas, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

Whereas, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and

Whereas, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

Whereas, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families; NOW

Therefore: I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as *National Child Abuse Prevention Month* in the City of Smyrna and recognize April 21-27, 2024 as *National Crime Victims' Rights Week* and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families and victims of crime.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Smyrna to be affixed upon this 8th day of April in the year of Our Lord 2024.




Mayor

Derek Norton