

The Town of Hilton Head Island

Proclamation

WHEREAS, South Carolina's future prosperity and quality of life depend on the healthy development of the more than 1.1 million children residing in the diverse communities across our state; and

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect must be a priority that requires individuals, families, child-serving organizations, schools, faith-based groups, businesses, government agencies, and civic leaders to support the physical, emotional, social, and educational well-being of all children; and

WHEREAS, child abuse is a serious public health issue with wide-ranging 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 issues into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, parents and caregivers who have a support system of family and friends, know where to find public resources, and understand how to remain resilient in challenging times are best equipped to provide safe, nurturing environments for their children; and

WHEREAS, statewide and community prevention programs serve as proven and effective ways to reduce child abuse and neglect no matter the geographic region, race or ethnicity, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2019-2020, there were 8,924 founded Child Protect Services investigations in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Hopeful Horizons and CAPA provided child abuse prevention training to over 3,000 children and adults.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John J. McCann, Mayor of the Town of Hilton Head Island, hereby proclaim that the week of April 2021 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Throughout the town and encourage all South Carolina.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hilton Head Island to be affixed this 20th day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-one.

John J. McCann, Mayor

Attest:

Krista M. Wiedmeyer, Town Clerk