

PROCLAMATION
DECLARING APRIL 2020 AS
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, 1,249 children in Palm Beach County were victims of verified child abuse and neglect in 2018-2019, creating an overall child abuse rate for the county of 4.5 per 1,000, well below the 5.4 per 1,000 rate the previous year; and,

WHEREAS, tragically, seven children died from child abuse in Palm Beach County last year, one more than the previous year; and

WHEREAS, 45 percent of those abused and neglected children are under the age of 6, and nearly 82.1 percent of them are under the age of 13; and

WHEREAS, African-American children represent 28.1 percent of children under age six in Palm Beach County, they represent 45 percent of the victims of verified child abuse; and

WHEREAS, this year in Palm Beach County, 852 children were removed from abusive homes and sheltered in the foster care system, a 2.3 percent increase from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, most of the children who entered out-of-home care did so due to parental substance abuse and domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, there are only 270 active foster families to care for them – just three more than last year; and

WHEREAS, substantially more children were placed with relatives and family members – the most preferred placement when a child has to be sheltered from abuse; and

WHEREAS, the misuse of opioids contributes to incidents of child abuse and neglect when children are present in the home, and substance abuse in the home was the top reason for removal of children who entered out-of-home care; and

WHEREAS, children who suffer abuse and neglect are nine times more likely to become involved in criminal activities; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that parents maltreated as children are at higher risk of maltreating their own children, continuing this tragic cycle; and

WHEREAS, toxic stress that stems from abuse can damage young children's developing brains, create learning and behavioral problems and hinder their future achievements, which has huge implications for our whole community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY that the following will be observed:

April 2020 Child Abuse Prevention Month

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Council Member Melissa McKinlay who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kathleen J. Kroll and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairman thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 19th day of March, 2020.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

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Debra Gotlib
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Debra E. Gotlib
Attorney for Children's Services Council
of Palm Beach County

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

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Thomas Bean, Chair

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Lisa Williams-Taylor
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Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer