

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of the City of Falls Church; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals; education, health, community, and faith-based organizations; and 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, the community must work together 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, the pinwheel is a happy, uplifting symbol of childhood, and it serves as a national symbol of child abuse prevention; and

WHEREAS, the annual "planting" of the pinwheel garden represents the happy, healthy childhood all children need to thrive; and

WHEREAS, more information about 2021 National Child Abuse Prevention Month can be found at [www.childwelfare.gov/preventionmonth](http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventionmonth) and you can show your support by tagging #ChildAbusepreventionMonth and #ThrivingFamilies on social media; and

WHEREAS, witnesses of child abuse and neglect should report it to Child Protective Services at 703-324-7400;

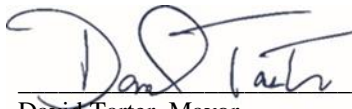
NOW, THEREFORE, I, David Tarter, Mayor of the City of Falls Church, Virginia, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2021 as

### CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in the City of Falls Church, Virginia and urge all to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families, thereby preventing child abuse and neglect and strengthening the communities in which we live.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Falls Church, Virginia to be affixed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2021.



  
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David Tarter, Mayor