

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Lauren Poe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Alachua County is now below the state rate for child abuse and neglect at 9.8%, compared to the state rate of 10.7%; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect causes significant trauma to the abused child and society, inflicting upon children serious illness and injury resulting in physical, intellectual and emotional impairment, or death; and

WHEREAS, abused or neglected children are at a much greater risk of becoming abusive and neglectful parents; and

WHEREAS, prevention services can reduce the cost society must bear in dealing with the results of child abuse and neglect and can help children and families avoid the overburdened and expensive social welfare and criminal justice systems; and

WHEREAS, children deserve the opportunity to grow and thrive in healthful environments, free from threats of violence and harm; and

WHEREAS, during the month of April, public and private-sector agencies, child care professionals, child advocates and residents will be increasing the public's awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim April, 2019 as

Child Abuse Prevention Month

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in preventing child abuse.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 1st day of April, A.D., 2019.



Lauren Poe
Mayor