

**WHEREAS:** Florida's bright future depends on the healthy development and well-being of its children; and

WHEREAS: adverse childhood experiences, including the abuse and neglect of children, can have severe and long-lasting consequences for children, families, and society as a whole; and

**WHEREAS:** every child has the right to a safe, healthy, and happy childhood, where they are supported in achieving their educational and developmental milestones; and

WHEREAS: research demonstrates that parents and caregivers who have strong support systems and access to resources are more resilient and better equipped to provide safe, nurturing environments for their children; and

**WHEREAS:** it is essential for individuals, schools, community organizations, and local governments to prioritize children and act to support their physical, social, emotional, and educational development; and

WHEREAS: the Children's Services Council of Broward County is committed to supporting families by funding Family Support Programs designed to reduce the incidence and impact of child abuse, neglect, and trauma. These programs stabilize families in crisis, promote positive parenting strategies, prevent out-of-home placements, and reduce involvement in the dependency system; and

**WHEREAS**: Broward AWARE! a countywide campaign led by the Children's Services Council and its partners, aims to raise awareness of child abuse prevention by promoting healthy child development, positive parenting practices, and community engagement; and

**WHEREAS**: Child Abuse Prevention Month provides an important opportunity to encourage all Floridians to participate in activities that strengthen families and communities, creating environments where children can thrive;

**NOW, THEREFORE:** I, Rex Hardin, Mayor of the City of Pompano Beach, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Pompano Beach, Florida, and encourage all residents to join in efforts to support the well-being of children and families.

DONE this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.