

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

APRIL 11, 2017

PROCLAIM APRIL 2017 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

In the United States, child protective service agencies received 3.6 million referrals involving approximately 6.6 million children, according to the most recent report on child abuse and neglect by the U.S. Administration for Children and Families. By these figures, child abuse is reported approximately every 10 seconds. Child fatalities are the most tragic consequence of child abuse and neglect, and an estimated 1,580 children died in 2014, according to that same report. Children under three years of age, the most vulnerable, represented approximately 27 percent of all reported victims and 70 percent of all child fatalities.

To help raise public awareness, prevent future occurrences, and to encourage the public to report child abuse, federal and local jurisdictions proclaim the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. In recognizing April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month," the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors joins the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), ICAN Associates, the Department of Children and Family Services, and the Office of Child Protection to bring the public's focus to the tragedy of child abuse and neglect and to create an atmosphere conducive to preventing child abuse, protecting children and helping families. Child abuse and neglect impacts children and families from all cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic groups and leaves lasting psychological scars on victims, families, and communities.

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To assist with increasing public awareness, hundreds of children across Los Angeles County expressed their concern and ideas through art by participating in the annual ICAN Associates Child Abuse Prevention Month Poster Art contest addressing topics such as child abuse and neglect, children at risk of cyber-crimes, unsafe sleeping practices, and suicide.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Join with the Inter-agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), ICAN Associates, the Department of Children and Family Services and the Office of Child Protection to proclaim the month of April 2017 as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” throughout the County of Los Angeles, raise public awareness of the impact of child abuse in the County, recognize the efforts of professionals and volunteers who work to prevent child abuse and neglect, and encourage residents to take active measures to prevent and report this dreadful crime against children, and promote the well-being and protection of children.

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