

## PROCLAMATION URGING APRIL 2017 BE DECLARED CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, Every child deserves a safe and happy childhood; yet, San Francisco continues to have one of the highest rates of child abuse in the Bay Area. While the widening economic divide in the City puts more children at risk for abuse, child abuse crosses all zip codes, socioeconomic levels, ethnicities, and family structures. Research shows that the impact of child abuse is devastating for individuals, families, and communities and

costs San Francisco an estimated \$300 million for just one year of substantiated cases. Abused children are more likely to experience negative educational, health, and behavioral outcomes and are more likely to be involved in risky behaviors and criminal activities as adults; and

WHEREAS, Together with the San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center, we are making important progress in ending abuse. With many years of strong collaboration among the community, San Francisco has created an important network of programs and policies that prevent child abuse and improve the response when abuse does happen. Despite these efforts, there are still over 5,400 reports of child abuse in San Francisco each year. We all have responsibility for our city's children, and each one of us has the power to protect kids in our community; and

WHEREAS, Child Abuse Prevention Month, first declared in 1983 by presidential proclamation, seeks to raise awareness about child abuse and its prevention and acknowledge the many accomplishments of families and communities working together to keep children safe and families healthy. Since 1989, a blue ribbon has stood as the symbol of child abuse prevention, after a grandmother who sought to memorialize the grandson she had lost to abuse, tied a blue ribbon to her car antennae. Like this grandmother, we cannot let up -- not when children are still growing up looking for a lifeline, and not when more than half a million young people in the United States are robbed of their basic right to safety every year; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Human Services Commission recognizes April 2017 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. And comes together with the San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center to shine a light on child abuse, build a community to protect all of our City's children, and stand up for vulnerable children. It is time for us to ensure that all children are protected; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Human Services Commission at its meeting held March 23, 2017, hereby proclaimed the month of April 2017 as Child Abuse Prevention Month; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Human Services Commission respectfully requests that the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Mayor Edwin M. Lee proclaim the month of April 2017 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Scott Kahn, President  
Human Services Commission