

# City and County of San Francisco



# Human Services Agency

Department of Human Services  
Family & Children's Services

*Trent Rhorer, Executive Director*  
*Sylvia Deporto, FCS Deputy Director*

## Proclamation: Urging April 2018 be declared child abuse prevention month

**WHEREAS**, our community has a responsibility to ensure that each and every child is safe and given the opportunity to thrive; yet, with over 5,000 reports of abuse each year, San Francisco continues to have one of the highest rates of child abuse in the Bay Area with a disproportionate impact on children of color. 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. The psychological, social, and economic costs of abuse can be devastating; and

**WHEREAS**, although child abuse is a complex issue, it is preventable. Research indicates that when communities come together to protect all their children and support protective factors in families, the likelihood of child maltreatment significantly diminishes. The five protective factors—Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Concrete Support, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, and Social and Emotional Competence of Children—build family strengths and create a healthy environment for the optimal development of children; and

**WHEREAS**, together with Safe & Sound and an important network of public and private organizations, we are making important progress in building families' protective factors and ending abuse. Improving outcomes for children and families will require ongoing collaboration among a broad cross-section of the community and intentional coordination and alignment of support systems, services, and policies. San Francisco has taken an important first step through the creation of the Our Children, Our Families Council and adoption of an outcomes framework that includes the goal to significantly reduce substantiated cases of child maltreatment; but these efforts will require all of us to come together to keep kids safe. Our children are our future, and each and every one of us has the power to protect San Francisco's children; 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; and now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Human Services Commission recognizes April 2018 as Child Abuse Prevention Month and comes together with Safe & Sound to shine a light on child abuse and the opportunity to build family strengths and protect all of our city's children. It is time for us to join together and stand up for vulnerable children and families; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the San Francisco Human Services Commission at its meeting held March 22, 2018, hereby proclaims the month of April 2018 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 Mark Farrell proclaim the month of April 2018 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

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**SCOTT KAHN**  
President, Human Services Commission

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Date