

Proclamation

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING APRIL 2024 AS

Child Abuse Prevention Month

WHEREAS, National Child Abuse Prevention Month is recognized in the United States in the month of April, as child abuse and neglect are community problems that require community commitment and response; and

WHEREAS, child maltreatment occurs when people find themselves in stressful situations, without community resources, and are not equipped to cope with challenges, frequently linked to economic and financial stressors, and situations that make families feel more vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, child abuse is considered to be one of the nation's most serious public health problems, affecting one in seven children annually, and contributing to a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological and behavioral disorders; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, the total lifetime economic burden associated with child abuse and neglect was nearly \$600 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, all children and youth in San Mateo County have the right to be free from mistreatment, abuse, and neglect, to grow and prosper, in safe homes, schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, all residents and policymakers can prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening economic supports to families, changing social norms to support positive parenting, reducing the stigma to access mental health services, providing quality child care and early education, supporting home visiting, post-natal and maternal health programs, and investing in culturally competent and trauma-informed crisis responses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby designates the month of April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month and urges all residents, community agencies, local governments, faith groups, schools and healthcare providers to raise awareness, target resources and advocate for ongoing supports to prevent child abuse and neglect in San Mateo County.

Dated: April 23, 2024

SUPERVISORS:

WARREN SLOCUM, President

NOELIA CORZO

RAY MUELLER

DAVE PINE

DAVID J. CANEPA

Attest: _____
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors