

**PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a community problem and finding solutions depends on the involvement and commitment of people from throughout the entire community; and*

*WHEREAS, approximately three million children are reported abused and neglected in this country every year; and*

*WHEREAS, all children deserve a safe and nurturing environment in which to grow up; and*

*WHEREAS, organizations such as Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia work to prevent child abuse and neglect through education, public awareness and advocacy; and*

*WHEREAS, Alexandria Child Protective Services provides investigations, assessments and services to children identified as victims of abuse or neglect; and*

*WHEREAS, the Alexandria Police Department works jointly with Alexandria Child Protective Services to prioritize and investigate criminal child abuse and neglect in a manner that supports and protects the child victims; and*

*WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office works collaboratively with the Alexandria Police Department and the Alexandria Child Protective Services to prevent the recurrence of criminal child abuse and neglect through prioritization and full prosecution of such crimes against children; and*

*WHEREAS, every member of the community has a responsibility to help children remain safe and raise the community's consciousness; and*

*WHEREAS, one small way to do this is by participating in the Blue Ribbon Campaign, showing support for children by wearing a blue ribbon throughout the month of April, reminding us of the seriousness of child abuse and neglect and the ways to prevent it; and*

*WHEREAS, April is also a time to thank our Allies in Prevention, including foster parents, child advocates and those who offer their talents in numerous ways to help the public better understand how to protect and keep our children safe;*

*NOW THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2004, as:*

**"CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH"**

*in the City of Alexandria, and do hereby call upon our citizens to observe the month by reaching out to parents who may need support or assistance, continuing efforts to strengthen one's own parenting skills and raising awareness by wearing a blue ribbon to show your care and support for children.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2004.*

**WILLIAM D. EUILLE** **MAYOR**  
*On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk