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4-9-02

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 investigation and services to children identified as victims of abuse or neglect; 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, the Alexandria Child Welfare Partnership, a community advisory committee, was established in August 2001, to advise the Department of Human Services on the implementation of the policy and procedural changes that have been implemented since the tragic death of Katelynn Frazier, and also to assist with the planning and implementation of a community education program; and

*WHEREAS, April is also a time to recognize **Everyday Heroes**, 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, **KERRY J. DONLEY**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2002, 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 9th day of April 2002.

KERRY J. DONLEY **MAYOR**
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Beverly I. Jett, CMC City Clerk