

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, there are nearly 800,000 children reported missing each year; and

WHEREAS, on average 2,100 children are reported missing to law enforcement agencies each day; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of minority children among missing children is higher than their percentage of the national population; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) has launched a national initiative aimed at educating the minority community about the perils of missing and exploited children and about protective measures families and communities should take to keep their children safe; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria recognizes this important initiative and honors the NCMEC which was established in 1984 to provide services nationwide for families and professionals in the prevention of abducted, endangered, and sexually exploited children; and

WHEREAS, the NCMEC serves as a clearinghouse of information about missing and exploited children; and

WHEREAS, the NCMEC provides technical assistance and training to law enforcement and social service agencies and individuals in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and treatment of cases involving missing and exploited children; and

WHEREAS, the NCMEC distributes photographs and descriptions of missing children worldwide; operates a Cyber Tipline that the public may use to report Internet-related child sexual exploitation; and networks with non-profits service providers and state clearinghouses about missing person cases; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Social Services Advisory Board, Alexandria Child Welfare Partnership, Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN), the Department of Human Services, Alexandria Police Department and other community agencies work together to protect the children of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria supports wholeheartedly the efforts of the NCMEC; and

WHEREAS, April is National Child Abuse Prevention month;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize April 13, 2004 as:

"NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN'S DAY"

in the City of Alexandria and encourage our citizenry to observe this day by recognizing the agencies and volunteers who work to keep children safe and protected in the City and across the nation.

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

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

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk