

PROCLAMATION – CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

To be read on March 19, 2022 at K'STAR's Chili Cook-off and Car & Bike Show being held at the Hill Country Youth Event Center. *Time to be determined.*

WHEREAS, in Texas, over 4 children die from abuse or neglect on average every week, 184 children are confirmed victims daily, and over 7 children are maltreated every hour; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of the Hill Country; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and

WHEREAS, we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BILL BLACKBURN, MAYOR OF KERRVILLE, TEXAS, proclaim April 2022 as NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH in Kerrville and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to improving the quality of life for all children and families.