

# Resolution No. 459-2026

Council Member Griffin

## AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Declaring the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month annually in the City of Cleveland.

WHEREAS, this Council is committed to protecting our most vulnerable and ensuring children grow up safe, healthy, educated, and prepared to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect contribute to adverse childhood experiences that can have profound lifelong negative impact on lives; and

WHEREAS, child abuse is 100% preventable and the cost of treating the impacts of child abuse is significantly higher than the cost of preventing it; and

WHEREAS, consistent, early, and effective prevention strategies have been proven to save lives, protect resources, and strengthen and preserve Cleveland's and Cuyahoga County's families by ending cycles of abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, children raised in safe, stable, and nurturing environments are more likely to enjoy good physical and mental health, succeed academically and socially, and achieve economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, educating adults about how to use positive coping skills, seek options, and be flexible enables them to be stronger, more resilient individuals throughout their lives and create more stable environments and brighter futures for children; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect prevention is a community responsibility, and on behalf of Cleveland's and Cuyahoga County's children, we join with Canopy Child Advocacy Center; and

WHEREAS, we assert that during April and throughout the year, we all come together against child abuse and neglect by supporting prevention programs, so every child feels safe and nurtured by making sure each family has the support and education they need; and

WHEREAS, we live by the wisdom of Frederick Douglass, that it is easier to build strong children than to repair broken adults; now more than ever, we must all do our part to help build strong children and give them access to safe, healthy futures; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

### **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:**

**Section 1.** That this Council declares the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month annually in the City of Cleveland.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to Canopy Child Advocacy Center, Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director.

**Section 3.** That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

