



## MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION 2016-02

### APRIL 2016 DECLARED AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF SEMMES, ALABAMA

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's future prosperity depend on nurturing the healthy development of over 4 million children currently living, growing and learning within our many diverse communities; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that safe and nurturing relationships and stimulating and stable environments improve brain development and child well-being, while neglectful or abusive experiences and unstable or stressful environments increase the odds of poor childhood outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, the abuse and neglect of children can cause severe, costly and lifelong problems affecting all of society, including physical and mental health problems, school failure and criminal behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, research also shows that parents and caregivers who have social networks and know how to seek help in times of trouble are more resilient and better able to provide safe environments and nurturing experiences for their children; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals, businesses, schools, and faith-based and community organizations must make children a top priority and take action to support the physical, social, emotional and educational development and competency of all children; and



**WHEREAS**, during the month of April, Prevent Child Abuse in Alabama in collaboration with the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention will be engaging communities throughout Alabama in a coordinated effort to prevent child abuse and neglect by promoting awareness of healthy child development, positive parenting practices and the types of concrete support families need within their communities.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, JUDITH HALE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SEMMES, ALABAMA**, do hereby proclaim April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month and urge all residents to engage in activities whose purpose is to strengthen families and communities to provide the optimal environment for healthy child development.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the City of Semmes, Alabama, this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

**/s/Judith Hale - Mayor**

**Attest:**

**/s/Brandi Michelsen – Interim Acting City Clerk**