

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2020/127

Recognizing the Month of April 2020 as Child Abuse Prevention Month

WHEREAS, as a community, we have a responsibility to nurture and protect our children and help ensure they become healthy and productive adults; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect affect children of all ages, races, and income, and is 100 percent preventable; and

WHEREAS, in Contra Costa County, the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) and Child Protective Services (CPS), a program of Children & Family Services within the Employment and Human Services Department, collaborate to continue protecting children through the COVID-19 health crisis, through preventive services, response, intervention, and investigation; and

WHEREAS, despite outreach and community efforts, the rising number of reported child abuse cases remains a great concern, and highlights the need for increased protection and improved services for abused and neglected children; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, with more isolation, schools and day care centers closed, parents and children at home together more, and incomes severely reduced, tensions in households increase, underscoring the importance of child abuse prevention services; and

WHEREAS, every year more than 3 million cases of child abuse are reported across the country, and two of the major risk factors leading to child abuse and neglect are family isolation and stress; and

WHEREAS, experiencing physical abuse or witnessing violence early in life can become a cycle, passed down through generations; and children exposed to violence may consider it to be acceptable, and therefore the cycle of violence continues and can lead to other violent or dangerous actions; and children who have experienced abuse are nine times more likely to become involved in criminal activities; and

WHEREAS, the total lifetime economic burden of child abuse and neglect in the United States is at least \$124 billion annually, and studies show that each death due to child maltreatment has a lifetime cost of \$1.3 million and the lifetime cost for each victim of child maltreatment who lived is \$210,012; and

WHEREAS, we cannot put a dollar value on the life of a child, however we can play a part in ending the tragedy of child abuse by supporting children and families. The benefits of implementing prevention programs greatly outweigh the substantial economic costs of maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, these costs accrue over the course of the survivors' lives, yet the community

will continue to incur the same cost each year until we are able to reduce and ultimately end child abuse; and

WHEREAS, most experts believe the number of incidents of abuse are far greater than what is reported; and early intervention is critical for preventing abuse and can positively impact at-risk families, protecting children; and

WHEREAS, in Contra Costa County there are numerous committed agencies, parents, relatives, community volunteers, public policymakers and professionals who collaborate to eliminate child abuse and give our children hope, security and safety; and

WHEREAS, CAPC continues its role as a child abuse prevention service provider to Contra Costa County during the COVID-19 crisis, and urges community members to report suspected child abuse to law enforcement, child welfare agencies or other community hotlines;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors joins in proclaiming April, 2020, to be “Child Abuse Prevention Month,” and recognizes the efforts made by the Child Abuse Prevention Council and Children and Family Services of the Employment and Human Services Department, and acknowledges both agencies for their dedication to preventing child abuse in Contra Costa County.

CANDACE ANDERSEN
Chair, District II Supervisor

JOHN GIOIA
Chair, District I Supervisor

DIANE BURGIS
District III Supervisor

KAREN MITCHOFF
District IV Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER
District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: April 28, 2020

David J. Twa,

By: _____, Deputy