

No. 08-09-RE

A RESOLUTION

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Designating the month of April 2009 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Allegheny County.

WHEREAS, each year more than 1 million children in the United States are documented as the victims of child abuse, and at least 1,500 children die as a result, with children under four years old accounting for 81% of the fatalities; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, 46 Pennsylvania children died as a result of abuse and neglect and there were 6,157 substantiated cases of abuse; and

WHEREAS, the damaging effects of child abuse include, but are not limited to, school failure, alcohol and drug abuse and physical and psychological difficulties; and

WHEREAS, child abuse crosses all racial, economic and geographic boundaries and has reached epidemic proportions across this nation and throughout this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania General Assembly enacted the Newborn Protection Act, or Safe Haven Law, in 2002; and

WHEREAS, thirty five of the 46 Pennsylvania children who died in 2007 as a result of abuse and neglect were under the age of five years and 18 of the children were under the age of one year; and

WHEREAS, sixty percent of the perpetrators in 2007 had a parental relationship with the abused child; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can and must be prevented and awareness raised so that families learn they have access to community resources which offer support, information and guidance to help stop or prevent abusive behaviors or conditions; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Pennsylvanians in schools, social service agencies, churches and neighborhood groups throughout this Commonwealth are working hard to nurture and support the victims of child abuse and prevent future abuse; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the dedication and sacrifice of these individuals, much more still needs to be done to guarantee a childhood free of abuse and victimization to every child in this Commonwealth;

The Council of the County of Allegheny hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. The Council of Allegheny County hereby designates the month of April 2009 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Allegheny County, commends those persons who work to treat and prevent child abuse in Allegheny County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and urges all County residents to do their part in preventing the tragedy of child abuse.

Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this Resolution shall be determined to be unlawful, invalid, void or unenforceable, then that provision shall be considered severable from the remaining provisions of this Resolution which shall be in full force and effect.

Section 5. Repealer. Any Resolution or Ordinance or part thereof conflicting with the provisions of this Resolution is hereby repealed so far as the same affects this Resolution.

PRIMARY SPONSORS: COUNCIL MEMBERS CLEARY, FINNERTY and ROBINSON, and PRESIDENT FITZGERALD

CO-SPONSORS: COUNCIL MEMBERS FUTULES, GASTGEB and MACEY

Enacted in Council, this 7th day of April, 2009

Council Agenda No. 4754-09

Rich Fitzgerald

Rich Fitzgerald
President of Council

Attest: John Mascio
John Mascio
Chief Clerk of Council

Chief Executive Office April 17, 2009

Approved: Dan Onorato
Dan Onorato
Chief Executive

Attest: Donna Beltz
Donna Beltz
Executive's Secretary