

Proclamation

WHEREAS, every child is precious and deserves to grow up in a healthy, safe, nurturing environment free from the threats, dangers and harmful effects of child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, in the state of Illinois in 2018, there were 88,127 confirmed reports of child abuse, 13,408 confirmed victims of child sexual abuse, 3,746 children taken into protective custody, and 191 child deaths resulting from child abuse and/or neglect; and

WHEREAS, in Knox County in 2018 there were 1169 reports of child abuse of which 72 calls were indicated reports resulting in 45 children taken into protective custody, and 5 confirmed victims of child sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS, child maltreatment often occurs when people find themselves in stressful situations, without community resources, and don't know how to cope. During periods of economic challenges, families feel more vulnerable, and as a result, child abuse and neglect increases drastically; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can be reduced by making sure each family has the support they need to raise their children in a healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, child abuse is considered to be one of our nation's most serious public health problems with scientific studies documenting the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological and behavioral disorders; and

WHEREAS, child abuse is a community problem and finding solutions depends on involvement among people throughout the community and all citizens should be aware of the negative effects of child abuse and become involved in supporting parents in raising their children in a safe, nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among state and local government agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Dennis Maurer, Mayor, do hereby proclaim April, 2019 as

“CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH”

and remind our citizens of our responsibility to prevent the abuse and neglect that robs so many of our society's children of their childhood, their sense of well-being, and their future. Together we really can make a difference.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2019