

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF ORANGE § A PROCLAMATION

CITY OF WEST ORANGE §

WHEREAS, in Federal fiscal year 2017, the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services confirmed 63,657 victims of child abuse or neglect, including 244 in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone in our community; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Texas; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections and partnerships created between child welfare, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses and law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families; and

WHEREAS, the impact of abuse and neglect has long-term personal, economic and social costs; therefore, hurting Texas' future; and

WHEREAS, Court Appointed Special Advocates® – CASA volunteers – are assigned by the court to speak up for a child's best interest and be a voice for a child in the courts; and

WHEREAS, every child in care deserves a CASA volunteer, but roughly less than half the children in care do not have a CASA volunteer; and

WHEREAS, 10,424 CASA volunteers spoke up for the best interest of 29,747 children in Texas last year;

WHEREAS, CASA of the Sabine Neches Region, Child Protective Services, Child Advocacy Centers, foster parents, teachers and others work to ensure that children in our community have the opportunity to grow up in safe, loving permanent homes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Roy McDonald, Mayor of the City of West Orange, Texas, do hereby proclaim April 2018 as

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in the City of West Orange, Texas and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 9th day of April 2018.



Roy McDonald, Mayor

ATTEST:



Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

APPROVED:



Rex Peveto, City Attorney

