

***WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect is a complex and ongoing problem in our society, affecting many children in our community; and*

***WHEREAS**, every child is entitled to be loved, cared for, nurtured, feel secure and be free from verbal, sexual, emotional and physical abuse and neglect; and*

***WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of every adult who comes in contact with a child to protect that child's inalienable right to a safe and nurturing childhood; and*

***WHEREAS**, Stillwater has dedicated individuals and organizations who work daily to counter the problem of child maltreatment and to help parents obtain the assistance they need; and*

***WHEREAS**, our communities are stronger when all citizens become aware of child maltreatment prevention and become involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe and nurturing environment; and*

***WHEREAS**, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships among families, social service agencies, schools, religious and civic organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community; and*

***WHEREAS**, all citizens, community agencies, faith organizations, and businesses will work to increase their efforts to support families.*

***NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Gina J. Noble, do hereby proclaim April as **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month** in Stillwater.*

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Stillwater to be affixed this 17th day of April, 2017.*

GINA J. NOBLE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ELIZABETH CHRZ, CITY CLERK