



**A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF PLACERVILLE RECOGNIZING APRIL 2023 AS
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of the City of Placerville and El Dorado County; and

WHEREAS, all children deserve great childhoods and should be raised in healthy nurturing homes, free from abuse and neglect. However, abuse and neglect continue to be a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, there were 448 reports of abuse and/or neglect in the city of Placerville made to El Dorado County Child Protective Services, of which 202 were investigated and 37 were found to be substantiated; and

WHEREAS, those statistics are part of the county-wide 2022 reports of abuse and/or neglect and were made to El Dorado County Child Protective Services in 2022, where 2,012 reports of abuse and/or neglect were made, of which 918 were investigated and 163 were found to be substantiated; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can put a child's stress system permanently on high alert and prime the brain for future mental health issues. Experiences of physical abuse and neglect early in life can become a cycle and may be passed down through generations. Children who grow up exposed to violence may consider it to be acceptable. Children who have experienced abuse are nine times more likely to become involved in criminal activities; and

WHEREAS, over 60% of Californians report experiencing at least one Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) before the age of 18. Approximately 1 in 4 Californians reported having 3 or more ACE's. Reducing the number of ACEs can drastically lower the risks of long-term health and wellness issues, allowing children to grow into healthy and productive adults; and

WHEREAS, the two major risk factors leading to child abuse and neglect; family isolation and stress, have been experienced by our families in ways never imagined in recent years from the lasting effects of isolation during the pandemic, the unprecedented evacuations and loss of homes during massive wildfires, the extended winter storms and power outages in our community, and the pressure of relentless inflation; and

WHEREAS, our county has undertaken the development of a Comprehensive Countywide Child Abuse Prevention Plan over the past 20 months. Community stakeholders, including the Title IV-E agencies, and the voice of those with lived experiences in our county, have shared and studied data and trends that affect families and children in El Dorado. This Comprehensive Countywide Child Abuse Prevention Plan will continue to expand and adapt to invest in primary and secondary prevention of child abuse locally; and

WHEREAS, the City of Placerville and the Placerville Police Department are fully invested in partnering with the El Dorado County Child Abuse Prevention Council to bring awareness to this issue and highlight prevention activities in our community; and

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse is everyone's responsibility. Even though the City of Placerville is made up of many different families, we are all part of one community. Our community must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and

WHEREAS, we all have a role to play to stand up, speak out, and create communities where every child in the City of Placerville and in all El Dorado County has the opportunity to reach their full potential:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City Council of the City of Placerville does hereby proclaim the month of April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention Month and urge all residents to come together to build caring connections, supportive environments, and positive experiences for children and families.

Date: April 11, 2023

Mayor Michael Saragosa

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the
seal of the City of Placerville to be affixed
this eleventh day of April, 2023.

ATTEST:

Regina O'Connell, CPMC, City Clerk