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City of Hiawatha
State of Iowa

PROCLAMATION

City of Hiawatha, Iowa Mayor's Proclamation

Whereas, the Iowa Department of Human Services confirmed or founded 546 cases of child abuse in Linn County in 2016; and

Whereas, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and requires action from everyone in our community to prevent it; and

Whereas, our children are our most valuable resource and will shape the future of Cedar Rapids and Linn County; and

Whereas, child abuse and neglect directly harms children and increases the likelihood of long-term physical and mental health problems, alcohol and substance abuse, continued family violence and criminal behavior; and

Whereas, child abuse and neglect occurs when people find themselves in stressful situations and don't know how to cope; and

Whereas, the majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and caring community; and

Whereas, every child can have a great childhood by making sure each family has the support and education they need in raising their children in safe, nurturing environments; and

Whereas, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

Whereas, community members must make every effort to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families.

Now, Therefore, I, Bill Bennett, Mayor of the City of Hiawatha, Iowa, do hereby proclaim April, 2018 as:

"Child Abuse Prevention Month"

And call upon all citizens to increase their participation in building caring connections with families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community in which we live.

Dated and Signed this 21st day of March, 2018.

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Bill Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kelly Kornegor, City Clerk