

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-04

**A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2024 CHILD ABUSE AND PREVENTION MONTH
IN THE CITY OF WICKLIFFE, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, all children of our community have the right to live and grow in a safe, secure and supportive environment; enter school prepared to succeed; be able to choose healthy behaviors and grow to successful adulthood; and

WHEREAS, we, the leaders of this community acknowledge that those rights are not always available to all children and although there has been significant progress to increase the safety and security of our children, we renew our commitment to protecting our most valuable resource; and

WHEREAS, during 2023, Lake County Children Services responded to nearly 1,500 calls regarding children and their families and as a result, Children Services worked with approximately 1,000 children who presented with a variety of issues which could not be easily resolved.

WHEREAS, over 100 foster families, adoptive families, relatives and other alternative caregivers provided a safe environment for children who were unable to be in their family home; and

WHEREAS, statistics show that a great majority of children who have died from child maltreatment in the State of Ohio were under the age of five years old, thus never having the chance to attend kindergarten; and statistics further show that survivors of child abuse and neglect are at a greater risk for problems later in life that affect not just the child and family but our society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the best prevention of child abuse can only be done if we, both as a society and as individuals, take responsibility to offer parents and families the support and tools they need to provide healthy nurturing homes for their children.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WICKLIFFE,
COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF OHIO:**

SECTION 1. That April is hereby declared Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City of Wickliffe. The citizens of our community are urged to become involved in activities throughout the month and all through the year to raise awareness of child abuse. Citizens are also urged to focus attention on providing safe environments for children and on fostering confident, positive parents.

SECTION 2. That it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health and safety of the city and its inhabitants, and for the further reason that it is necessary to timely recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month; wherefore, this resolution, provided it receives an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members elected to Council, shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: March 25th, 2024

Attest: [Signature]
Clerk of Council

Submitted to the Mayor for approval on
March 25th, 2024

First reading suspended

Second reading suspended

Third reading March 25th, 2024

[Signature]
Council President – Presiding Officer

Approved: March 25th, 2024

[Signature]
Mayor

Passed March 25th, 2024

Yes 5 No 0

I, Sandra J. Fink, Clerk of Council of Wickliffe, Ohio, hereby certify the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 2024-04 enacted by Council at its regular meeting on March 25, 2024.
Sandra J. Fink, Clerk of Council