

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
PRATTVILLE, ALABAMA**

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community problem that depends on involvement among people throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, child maltreatment occurs when people find themselves in stressful situations, without community resources, 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 supportive community; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can be reduced by making sure each family has the support they need to raise their children in a healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect not only directly harm children, but also increase the likelihood of criminal behavior, substance abuse, health problems such as heart disease and obesity, and risky behavior such as smoking; and

WHEREAS, all citizens should become involved in supporting families in raising their children in a safe, nurturing environment; and

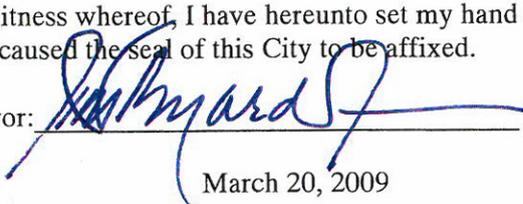
WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Byard, Jr., Mayor of the City of Prattville, on behalf of the Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, The Children's Trust Fund and Prevent Child Abuse Alabama do hereby **PROCLAIM** the month of April, 2009, as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in Prattville, Alabama, and call upon all citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to prevent child abuse, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of this City to be affixed.

Mayor: 

March 20, 2009

