

Intro. Res. No. 1264-2020

Laid on Table 3/3/2020

Introduced by Legislators Sunderman, Hahn, Cilmi, Anker, Muratore, Calarco, Gonzalez, Flotteron, Kennedy, Richberg and Spencer

**RESOLUTION NO. 272-2020, DESIGNATING APRIL AS “CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH” IN SUFFOLK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, all children deserve to grow up in a caring, loving and nurturing home, yet across this country hundreds of thousands of children are neglected or abused each year, often causing lasting consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, the relationships that children have with parents, family members, teachers and other caregivers profoundly shape their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, when children are subjected to abuse and neglect, they are exposed to toxic stress that can disrupt early brain development and increases the child’s risk of depression, suicide, substance abuse difficulties, future violence, juvenile delinquency and other unhealthy behaviors over the course of their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has designated April as National Child Abuse Awareness Month to increase public awareness of child abuse and neglect and the devastating effects it can have on the lives of children who are subjected to it; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Suffolk should designate the month of April as “Child Abuse Awareness Month” to raise awareness locally of the life-long effects of child abuse and neglect as well as ensure that all children are treated with dignity and respect, and have the opportunity to pursue their dreams in secure and healthy environments; now, therefore be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that beginning in April 2020 and continuing every year thereafter the month of April is hereby designated as “Child Abuse Awareness Month” in Suffolk County to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect with the goal of ensuring that every child grows up in a safe, stable and nurturing environment that is free from abuse and neglect; and be it further

**2nd RESOLVED**, that the Department of Social Services (“the Department”) is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to develop and implement each April a child abuse awareness campaign that is publicized on their website, through public service announcements and on all forms of social media utilized by the Department to increase awareness of child abuse and neglect, the short and long term effects of child abuse and neglect, how to report suspected cases and the resources available to assist children and families who are suffering from abuse and neglect; and be it further

**3rd RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(26) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as routine or continuing administration and management not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: March 17, 2020

APPROVED BY:

/s/Dennis M. Cohen  
Chief Deputy County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: April 1, 2020