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2 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau  
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6 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray  
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10 Councilmember Christina Henderson  
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14 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie  
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18 Councilmember Elissa Silverman  
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22 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION  
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27 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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32 To declare April 2021 as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in the District of Columbia.  
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34 WHEREAS, Child Abuse Prevention Month, first commemorated in 1983, recognizes the  
35 importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect and  
36 promotes the social and emotional well-being of children and families;  
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38 WHEREAS, every child has the right to develop and mature in a safe, secure, and  
39 supportive environment, free from violence, victimization, and neglect;  
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41 WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can include verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual  
42 abuse and exploitation that affects the health of children and the adults they become;  
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44 WHEREAS, research demonstrates that the long-term effects of the adversity of childhood  
45 trauma can result in medical, mental health, and psychosocial conditions that can shorten one’s  
46 lifespan and impact an entire community;

47            WHEREAS, experiences of child abuse and neglect have been demonstrated to lead to increased risks of violence and crime in adulthood;

48            WHEREAS, although the number of abused children is likely underreported, data show that nearly 700,000 children are abused in the United States annually;

49            WHEREAS, the District recognizes the impact of bringing awareness to this issue, which unfortunately many District youth experience;

50            WHEREAS, according to the Administration for Children and Families of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the District's child abuse rate of 14.5 per 1,000 children continues to exceed the national rate of 8.9 per 1,000 children;

51            WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the lifetime economic cost of child maltreatment ranges from \$124 to \$585 billion;

52            WHEREAS, historical trauma and systemic racism, now compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, contribute to the racial inequities within the child welfare system;

53            WHEREAS, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, child abuse reports have dropped throughout the country, including in the District, because teachers, physicians, and other trusted professionals have fewer ways to identify it due to social isolation;

54            WHEREAS, Child Abuse Prevention Month brings awareness to the multidisciplinary partnerships from the medical, legal, social, educational, and business communities that work cooperatively to help heal District children, strengthen families, hold abusers accountable, and prevent maltreatment;

55            WHEREAS, Children's National Hospital provides comprehensive services for children and youth who have experienced neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and other forms of sexual violence in the region;

56            WHEREAS, the Child and Adolescent Protection Center at Children's National focuses on preventing and ending the cycle of abuse and is recognized for its team of physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, victim services coordinators, and administrators who have experience and expertise in the medical and mental health care of victims of child maltreatment and their families;

57            WHEREAS, the Council recognizes the expertise and support of the public and private entities that constitute the Multi-Disciplinary Team on Abuse and Neglect ("MDT");

58            WHEREAS, the MDT is a group of entities that works together to serve hundreds of children annually through its child abuse case review system, which makes the criminal legal system less cumbersome for victims and their families by working collaboratively to reduce the duplicative interfacing of victims for necessary reporting and investigative documentation;

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94        WHEREAS, the MDT includes the Child and Adolescent Protection Center of Children's  
95 National; Safe Shores – The D.C. Children's Advocacy Center; the Office of the Attorney General;  
96 the Metropolitan Police Department; the Child and Family Services Agency; and the United States  
97 Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia; and

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99        WHEREAS, the Council of the District of Columbia thanks and recognizes the community  
100 partners who work to prevent the tragedy of child abuse and neglect before it happens and keep  
101 the children of the District healthy and whole.

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103        RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this  
104 resolution may be cited as the "Child Abuse Prevention Month Recognition Resolution of 2021".

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106        Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia declares April 2021 as "Child Abuse  
107 Prevention Month" in the District of Columbia.

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109        Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in  
110 the District of Columbia Register.