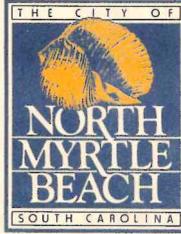


Proclamation



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HORRY
CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, South Carolina's 1.1 million children residing in the diverse communities across our state, including the 53 thousand children in Horry County, are our most valuable resource and will shape the future of our great state; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma, including neglect and abuse, is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, mental and behavioral health, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community in partnership to build awareness and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children, youth and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families; and

WHEREAS, in state fiscal year 2024-2025, there were 7,024 substantiated Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations with 12,371 children in South Carolina, and 487 investigations with 766 children in Horry County.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, J.O. Baldwin, III, Mayor of the City of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, along with the City Council, do hereby proclaim April 2026, as Child Abuse Prevention Month throughout North Myrtle Beach and ask all South Carolinians to dedicate themselves to protecting the quality of life for all families and children so that we end child neglect and abuse.

Dated this 16th day of March 2026.

J.O. Baldwin, III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Allison K. Galbreath, City Clerk

