*STATE OF FLORIDA*
*CITY OF OAKLAND PARK*

# *PROCLAMATION*

**WHEREAS**, Florida's future prosperity depends on nurture and healthy development of over four million children, one of our most vulnerable populations, currently living, growing and learning within our community; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows most child abuse cases are a consequence of neglect in which families or caregivers are often overwhelmed by economic and social problems without solutions weakening their ability to sufficiently supervise their children and increasing their vulnerability to maltreatment; and

**WHEREAS,** the abuse and neglect of children can cause severe, costly, and lifelong problems affecting all of society, including physical and mental health problems, school failure, and criminal behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, abuse seldom just occurs; it is often accepted, generational and in many cases unreported. Therefore, it is imperative individuals, families, schools, faith-based and community organizations orient children to healthy relationships and environments at home as early as possible to empower our children to discern danger and avoid abuse before it occurs.

**NOW THEREFORE,** the City Commission of the City of Oakland Park, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the Charter, does hereby authorize Mayor Steven R. Arnst to proclaim the month of April 2026 as

# CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in the City of Oakland Park, Florida, and urges all residents to engage in activities whose purpose is to strengthen families and communities to provide the optimal environment for healthy child development.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Oakland Park, Florida, to be affixed this 14th day of April, 2026.

BY:_____
STEVEN R. ARNST, MAYOR

ATTEST:

_____
RENEE M. SHROUT, CMC, CITY CLERK