

# City of Birmingham

## Proclamation

- WHEREAS:** *Strong family relationships constitute the foundation of our community; and*
- WHEREAS:** *Alienating behaviors are frequently seen in high-conflict divorces, separations, and asymmetrical custody arrangements but can and do occur in intact marriages; and*
- WHEREAS:** *Parental alienation is the term used to describe any number of behaviors and attitudes on the part of one parent that are designed to interfere, damage or destroy the relationship a child has with their other parent. It's a form of abuse that causes emotional trauma to children; and*
- WHEREAS:** *Parental alienation deprives children of their right to freely love and be loved by both parents, their extended family, and robs children of their sense of security; and*
- WHEREAS:** *Mental professionals agree that the negative effects of parental alienation can follow a child into adulthood with tragic consequences; and*
- WHEREAS:** *The recently published Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) made several references to the dysfunctional family dynamic of alienation to be a form of psychological child abuse; and*
- WHEREAS:** *Approximately 40,000 children in the State of Alabama were subjected to child custody determination in 2013; and*
- WHEREAS:** *Parental Alienation Prevention Week is intended to increase the knowledge and understanding of this problem to help Alabamians, institutions, the legal and mental health community, and leaders to better identify and combat such abusive behavior to children; and*
- WHEREAS:** *In honor of Parental Alienation Prevention Week, come and show your support by taking 10 minutes out of your day at noon, April 25, to blow soap "Bubbles for Love". Each bubble we blow will represent the love our children have and should be allowed to share with both their parents.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM A. BELL, SR., MAYOR** of the City of Birmingham, Alabama do hereby proclaim April 24-30, 2016 as

### **PARENTAL ALIENATION PREVENTION WEEK**

And April 25, 2016, as

### **PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS DAY**

in Birmingham, and encourage all of our citizens to observe this month with programs and activities that help prevent child abuse and provide for the needs and safety of our children.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Birmingham, Alabama to be affixed, this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

*William A. Bell Sr.*  
MAYOR