

## Official Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, strong family relationships constitute the foundation of our community, but alienating behaviors are often found in high conflict divorce or never married and asymmetrical custody arrangements; and,

**WHEREAS**, speaking negatively about a parent to or in front of a child and interfering with communication and visitation can not only destroy the bond between a loving parent and child, but can cause a child mental and emotional harm, as such alienating tactics are confusing, frightening, and rob children of their sense of security; and,

**WHEREAS**, parental alienation takes advantage of the impressionable and impressionable, depriving children of their right to freely love and be loved by both parents and extended family; and,

**WHEREAS**, professionals agree that the problem of parental alienation is damaging to children and can affect them into adulthood, with tragic consequences, and the DSM-5 makes several references to the dysfunctional family dynamic of alienation as a form of psychological child abuse; and,

**WHEREAS**, approximately 40,000 children in the State of Alabama were subjected to child custody determination in 2012; 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**, God so loved us, we also ought to love one another; love does no harm to its neighbor – therefore love is the fulfillment of the law; and,

**WHEREAS**, the organizers of Parental Alienation Prevention Week are asking everyone to blow soap bubbles at noon on April 25, 2014, to show their support in spreading the simple message that children should be allowed to freely love both of their parents and extended family members; each free flowing bubble representing the love a child should have for his or her mother and father.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Max A. Townson, Mayor of the City of Cullman, do hereby proclaim the April 20-26, 2014, **PARENTAL ALIENATION PREVENTION WEEK** and April 25, 2014, **PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS DAY** in the City of Cullman.



In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Cullman to be affixed on this, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014.

*Max A. Townson*

Max A. Townson  
Mayor