

Office of the Myor  
City of Cullman, Alabama, USA

## *Official Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, strong family relationships constitute the foundation of our community, but alienating behaviors are frequently seen in high conflict divorce, separations, and asymmetrical custody arrangements – and also 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 and extended family, robs children of their sense of security, and 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**, God so loved us, we also ought to love one another; love does no harm to its neighbor; therefore Children should be able to freely express the meaning of **F.A.M.I.L.Y.** = **F**ather **A**nd **M**other, **I** **L**ove **Y**ou; and

**WHEREAS**, in honor of Parental Alienation Prevention Week, I ask residents to show their support by taking 10 minutes out of their day at noon on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, to blow soap “Bubbles for Love”. Each bubble blown will represent the love children have that they should be allowed to share with both parents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Max A. Townson, Mayor of the City of Cullman, do hereby proclaim the week of April 19-25, 2015, as PARENTAL ALIENATION PREVENTION WEEK and April 25, 2015, as PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS “BUBBLES OF LOVE” 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.

  
Max A. Townson  
Mayor

