

# Mayoral Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, strong family relationships constitute the foundation of our community; and,

**WHEREAS**, alienating behaviors are often seen in high-conflict divorces, separations, and asymmetrical custody arrangements, but can also occur in intact marriages; and,

**WHEREAS**, parental alienation is a term used to describe any number of behaviors and attitudes on the part of one parent, both parents, or third parties that are designed to interfere, damage, or destroy the relationship of children and their other parent; and,

**WHEREAS**, parental alienation deprives children of their right to freely love and be loved by both parents and extended family and robs children of their sense of security; it is a form of abuse that causes emotional trauma to children; and,

**WHEREAS**, mental health professionals agree that the negative effects of parental alienation can follow a child into adulthood with tragic consequences, and the recently published Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) makes several references to the dysfunctional family dynamic of alienation as a form of psychological child abuse; and,

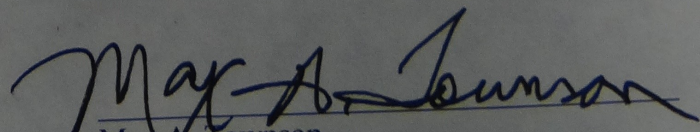
**WHEREAS**, tens of thousands of children in the State of Alabama are subjected to child custody determination each year, and Parental Alienation Prevention Week is intended to increase the knowledge and understanding of this problem to help Alabamians, institutions, the legal and mental health community, 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.: Father And Mother, I Love You.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Max A. Townson**, as Mayor of the City of Cullman and on behalf of the City Council and our citizens, do hereby proclaim April 24-30, 2016, as **PARENTAL ALIENATION PREVENTION WEEK**, and April 25, 2016, as **PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS "Bubbles for Love" DAY** in the City of Cullman, and urge all of our citizens to show their support by blowing soap "Bubbles for Love" at noon on Monday, April 25, 2016, remembering that each bubble represents the love children have, and should be allowed to share, with both parents.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Cullman to be affixed on this, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.



  
Max A. Townson  
Mayor