



THE CITY OF FLORENCE, ALABAMA
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

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

WHEREAS, alienating behaviors are often found in high conflict divorce or never married and unequal custody arrangements. Speaking negatively about a parent to or in front of a child; interfering with communication and visitation; and discussing inappropriate information with a child, can not only destroy the bond between a loving parent and child, but can cause a child mental and emotional harm; and

WHEREAS, parental alienation takes advantage of the innocent and impressionable. It deprives children of their right to 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

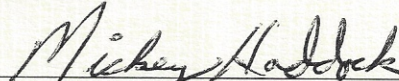
WHEREAS, approximately 40,000 children in Alabama were subjected to child custody determinations in 2012; and

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. With awareness comes education and understanding, and the power to stop the abuse; 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. This year organizers of Parental Alienation Prevention Week are asking everyone to blow soap bubbles at Noon on Friday, April 25, 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, Mickey Haddock, Mayor of the City of Florence, Alabama, do hereby proclaim April 20 through April 26, 2014, as **PARENTAL ALIENATION PREVENTION WEEK** and Friday, April 25, 2014, as **PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS DAY**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City to be affixed this the 4th day of March, 2014.



Mickey Haddock, Mayor

