



From the Governing Body of
Opelika, Alabama



Proclamation



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

WHEREAS, alienating behaviors are frequently present in high-conflict divorces, separations, and asymmetrical custody arrangements. Parental alienation takes advantage of the innocent and impressionable, depriving children of their right to freely love and be loved by both parents and extended family; and

WHEREAS, behaviors such as speaking negatively about a parent to, or in front of, a child and interfering with parenting time and communication 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, professionals agree that the problem of parental alienation is damaging to children and can affect them into adulthood, with tragic consequences. , Mental professionals agree that the negative effects of parental alienation can follow a child into adulthood with tragic consequences; and

WHEREAS, approximately 40,000 children in the State of Alabama 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, 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 25th 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, Gary Fuller, Mayor of the City of Opelika, Alabama by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2014, as

PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunder set my hand and caused the seal of Opelika, Alabama, to be affixed this the 25th day of April 2014.



Gary Fuller
Mayor, City of Opelika

ATTEST