



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MEMORANDUM

2026 MAR 17 AM 10:23

CLERK OF THE BOARD
COUNTY OF ORANGE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Doug Chaffee

3/17/2026

To: Robin Stieler, Clerk of the Board

From: Chair Doug Chaffee, Fourth District
Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento, Second District

Vicente Sarmiento

Subject: Presentation Item for April 14, 2026, Board of Supervisors Meeting – Child Abuse Prevention Month

Chair Doug Chaffee and Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento request a presentation be added to the agenda for the April 14, 2026, Board of Supervisors meeting. The title should read:

Chair Chaffee and Supervisor Sarmiento will be presenting a resolution recognizing the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

April 2026 Child Abuse Prevention Month Resolution

Whereas, we as a society have a responsibility to nurture and protect our children and to help ensure they grow into healthy, successful adults; and,

Whereas, child abuse and neglect are complex, ongoing problems, affecting children from every sector of society and crossing all cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic divisions; and,

Whereas, 25,251 children were referred in 2025 to the County of Orange Social Services Agency on allegations of abuse or neglect; and,

Whereas, every child, no matter their background, is filled with great promise and potential, and is entitled to be loved, cared for and nurtured, feel secure, and to be free from verbal, sexual, emotional and physical abuse and neglect; and,

Whereas, prevention programs can reduce the economic and social burden associated with child abuse and neglect, and succeed when close partnerships exist between social service agencies, schools, faith communities, community organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community; and,

Whereas, our society is stronger when all citizens are made aware of child abuse prevention services and programs, and are vigilant and proactive in supporting parents and caregivers as they strive to raise their children in safe, healthy and nurturing environments; and,

Whereas, in Orange County, numerous committed agencies, nonprofits, parents, relatives, community volunteers, public policymakers and professionals collaborate to eliminate child abuse and to give our children a strong foundation of support that provides them with hope, security and safety; and,

Whereas, on April 9, 1974, the Orange County Board of Supervisors acted to designate and form the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Council; and,

Whereas, the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Council's Blue Ribbon Committee, comprising leadership from 30 community-based agencies, organizations, collaborators and partners, launched the 32nd Annual Countywide Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Campaign with the Blue Ribbon Kick-off Ceremony at the Heritage Museum on April 2, 2026, themed "Strong Families, Safe Futures: When We Care Together, Families Thrive."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Orange County Board of Supervisors does hereby declare April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Orange County and urges all residents to take part in and learn from the important efforts of The Raise Foundation, Orange County's Child Abuse Prevention Council members and its many partners that serve children and families, to work together to prevent child maltreatment and build healthy, safe, strong, supportive families and communities.