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**Proclamation:
Child Abuse Prevention Month, April 2018**

FILED FOR RECORD
at 11:40 o'clock 02 M

MAR 27 2018

JENNIFER LINDENZWEIG
County Clerk, Hunt County, TX
By [Signature]

WHEREAS, almost every 8 minutes in Texas, a child becomes a victim of abuse or neglect;

WHEREAS, 172 children died from child abuse or neglect in Texas last year;

WHEREAS, last year in Texas, 19,782 children were removed from their home due to abuse or neglect – equaling 54 children entering the foster care system each day;

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2017, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services served a total of 290,000 children who, by no fault of their own, became involved with the Department due to allegations and confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect.

WHEREAS, in Hunt County, DFPS's Child Protection Services worked with an average of 184 children and their families each and every month of 2017;

WHEREAS, Court Appointed Special Advocates® – CASA volunteers – are assigned by the court to speak up for a child's best interest and be a voice for that child in the courts; and last year in Texas, 10,424 CASA volunteers spoke up for the best interest of 29,747 of the 50,293 children in foster care in 2017;

WHEREAS, in Hunt County, CASA volunteers advocated for 305 children last year, serving 100 percent of the Hunt County children who were placed into the care and custody of the state;

WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Center – CAC – is the front door for the child abuse investigation process to provide a collaborative response to children impacted by abuse; last year in Texas 70 Children's Advocacy Centers across the state served more than 48,000 children each year;

WHEREAS, every child through the CAC has a chance for their voice to be heard and the healing process to begin; in Hunt County, CAC staff and volunteers served 566 children last year;

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone in our community; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Texas; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children;

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections and partnerships created between child welfare, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses and law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families;

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment.

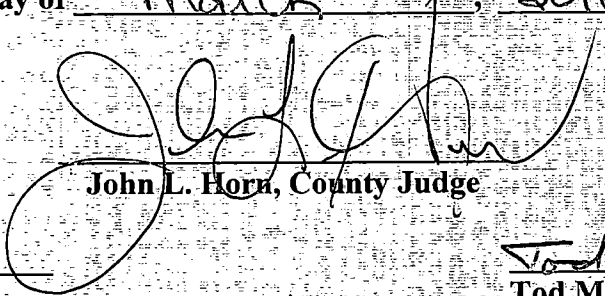
WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families;

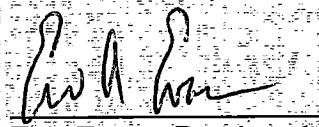
WHEREAS, the impact of abuse and neglect has long-term personal, economic and social costs; therefore, hurting Texas' future;

WHEREAS, CASA for Hunt County, Hunt County Children's Advocacy Center, Hunt County's Child Protective Services, foster parents, teachers, counselors, attorneys, judges and others work to ensure that children in our community have the opportunity to grow up in safe, loving permanent homes;

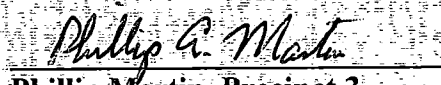
NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Horn, County Judge for Hunt County, Texas, do hereby proclaim April 2018 as NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH in Hunt County and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

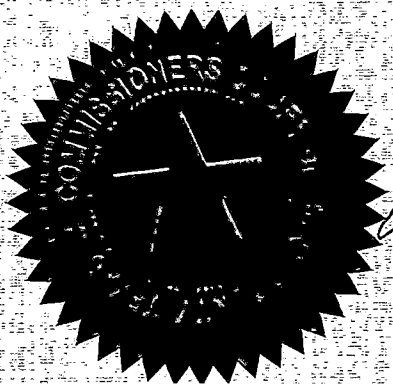
Signed on the 27 day of March, 2018.


John L. Horn, County Judge


Eric Evans, Precinct 1


Tod McMahan, Precinct 2


Phillip Martin, Precinct 3




Jim Latham, Precinct 4