

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; 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, 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, Mental professionals agree that the negative effects of parental alienation can follow a child into adulthood with tragic consequences; and

WHEREAS, The recently published Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) made several references to the dysfunctional family dynamic of alienation to be a form of psychological child abuse; 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, Vaughn M. Stewart, II, Mayor of the City of Anniston, Alabama, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2014 as ***“Parental Alienation Awareness Day”*** and April 20 through April 26, 2014, as ***“Parental Alienation Prevention Week”*** in the City of Anniston.

Dated this the 14th day of April, 2014



Vaughn M. Stewart, II
Mayor