

City of Birmingham Proclamation

WHEREAS: Strong family relationships constitute the foundation of our community and 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, and 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, 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, WILLIAM A. BELL, SR., MAYOR of the City of Birmingham, Alabama do hereby proclaim April 20 - April 26, 2014 as

PARENTAL ALIENATION PREVENTION WEEK

And April 25, 2014, as

PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS DAY

in Birmingham, and encourage all of our citizens to observe this month with programs and activities that help prevent child abuse and provide for the needs and safety of our children.

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



MAYOR

