



From the Governing Body of  
Opelika, Alabama



# Proclamation



**WHEREAS**, Alienating behaviors are often found in high conflict divorce or never married and asymmetrical custody arrangements; and

**WHEREAS**, Speaking negatively about a parent to or in front of a child; interfering with communication and visitation; and discussing inappropriate information with a child, such as details of the separation, court proceedings, or financial matters, are behaviors that can not only destroy the bond between a loving parent and child, but can cause a child mental and emotional harm; and

**WHEREAS**, Parental alienation takes advantage of the impressionable and dependent nature of children and deprives children of their right to love and be loved by both parents; and

**WHEREAS**, Parental alienation is considered harmful to children, as the 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; and

**WHEREAS**, There are more than 20,000 divorced Alabamians, almost 25,000 unwed births in 2011, and approximately 40,000 children in Alabama subjected to child custody determination; and

**WHEREAS**, With awareness come education and understanding, and the power to stop the abuse of innocent children caught in the crossfire of the people they love; dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another; and

**WHEREAS**, Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. This year organizers are doing something special by asking everyone to take 10 minutes out of their day at noon on April 25<sup>th</sup>, anywhere in the state, and blow soap bubbles representing love.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Gary Fuller, Mayor of the City of Opelika, Alabama by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim April 21 through April 27, 2013, as Parental Alienation Prevention Week and April 25, 2013, 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 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 2013.



Gary Fuller  
Mayor, City of Opelika

*Barbara J. Arrington*  
ATTEST