

Proclamation

Office of the Mayor

National Child Abuse Prevention Month and Volunteer Appreciation Week

WHEREAS, April is recognized nationally as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and National Volunteer Week is observed annually during the month of April; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Guardian ad Litem Office provides legal representation for abused, abandoned, and neglected children in dependency court proceedings throughout the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida law, the Florida Guardian ad Litem Office utilizes a multidisciplinary team approach to provide legal representation for abused, abandoned, and neglected children, including a Guardian ad Litem Attorney, a child welfare professional, and, when available, a trained volunteer or pro bono attorney from the child's community; and

WHEREAS, during the last fiscal year, for the first time in Florida's history, 100 percent of children were represented, and every child had a lawyer; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Guardian ad Litem Office achieved a 97 percent appellate success rate, underscoring the strength and quality of its legal representation of children; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Guardian ad Litem Office is supported by more than 8,000 volunteers statewide, who collectively donated over 194,000 hours of service and traveled more than 1.1 million miles during the last fiscal year in support of Florida's children; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Guardian ad Litem Office Circuit 17, serving Broward County, is supported by dedicated local volunteers who are a valued member of the multidisciplinary team representing abused, abandoned, and neglected children and who provide information to the dependency courts regarding each child's best interests; and

WHEREAS, research consistently demonstrates that children with a Guardian ad Litem are more likely to achieve permanency, less likely to re-enter foster care, and more likely to experience improved long-term outcomes.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Michael J. Ryan, Mayor of the City of Sunrise, Florida together with the City Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of April 2026 as **National Child Abuse Prevention Month** and the week of April 19-25, 2026 as **Volunteer Appreciation Week** in the City of Sunrise.



Witness My Hand and Official Seal
Of The City of Sunrise, Florida

Michael J. Ryan, Mayor