

**WHEREAS** child abuse and neglect are 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 the Mineola and Wood County communities; 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 our children; and

**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; and

**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; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Jayne Lankford do hereby proclaim **April, 2023**

### **NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH**

In Mineola, Texas 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 and so proclaimed this 27th day of March, 2023.*