



# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS,** City of Pascagoula prides itself on giving back to the community, contributing to the quality of life among our citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** CASA of Southeast Mississippi, in association with the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association, speaks for the best interests of abused and neglected children who are involved in the juvenile courts; and

**WHEREAS,** More than 35,534 reports of maltreatment of children are reported each year with some form of abuse or neglect; and

**WHEREAS,** Of those, roughly 6,529 were substantiated investigations meaning at least one form of abuse or neglect was found; and

**WHEREAS,** Within our state, 81 children died according to the most recent federal numbers reported of abuse and neglect; and

**WHEREAS,** Through a national effort, City of Pascagoula community members are encouraged to join together to raise awareness for those children that have fallen victim to abuse and neglect throughout the month of April; and

**WHEREAS,** This effort will give abused and neglected children in our community, and around the county, a chance for a safe and positive future.

**NOW THEREFORE,** I Jay Willis, Mayor the City of Pascagoula, Mississippi, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as:

## **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH**

In this city, and in doing so, urge all citizens to join in a national effort to raise awareness and help prevent child abuse and neglect.