

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS:** Strong family relationships constitute the foundation of our community; and

**WHEREAS:** 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, 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 on April 25<sup>th</sup> 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, Stencil Handley, Mayor of the City of Columbiana, Alabama do hereby proclaim April 20 through April 26, 2014, as**

**PARENTAL ALIENATION PREVENTION WEEK**

And April 25, 2014, as

**PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS DAY**

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Stencil Handley, Mayor