

Proclamation Fulton County Child Welfare Appreciation Week June 3 - 7, 2024

WHEREAS, every day in Fulton County, children are at risk of child abuse and neglect or have been removed from their homes due to such abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, Fulton County recognizes the risks and the need to protect the children of the County; and

WHEREAS, the challenging task of investigating child abuse, providing services to families, assessing safety, and providing services to ensure that Fulton County's children are provided with nurturance, family connections, support as they transition into adulthood, and services that allow a child to remain safely in their home or return home as expeditiously as possible falls to the child welfare professionals of the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, the work of child welfare professionals may require them to enter into situations in which their personal safety may be put at risk; and

WHEREAS, child welfare professionals work in difficult and emotional situations with children who have been victimized by physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and other forms of maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, child welfare professionals must develop great skill in working with families who are in crisis situations, struggling with mental health challenges, suffering from drug and alcohol afflictions, poverty, and other difficult issues; and

WHEREAS, child welfare professionals must develop substantial knowledge and skills surrounding the rights of families, the laws surrounding child welfare, how to develop culturally sensitive services, and the legal processes governing the system; and

WHEREAS, child welfare professionals selflessly undertake the endeavor to protect Fulton County's children, often with low pay, long hours, tremendous demands, little appreciation, great criticism, and with dramatic impacts to their personal life; and

WHEREAS, every year, child welfare professionals are injured or killed in their pursuit to protect children across the United States; and

WHEREAS, workforce challenges have created tremendous challenges in the field of child welfare; and

WHEREAS, innumerable injuries and deaths of children have been averted due to the efforts of child welfare professionals; therefore, in special recognition of the efforts of the Child Welfare Professionals serving the children of Fulton County, we, the Commissioners of Fulton County, do hereby proclaim June 3-7, 2024 as FULTON COUNTY CHILD WELFARE APPRECIATION WEEK.

Sincerely,

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Rangly H. Bunch, Chair

Steven L. Wible, Vice-Chair

Hervey P. Hann