

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

***WHEREAS**, child maltreatment impacts not only the child, but the family, the community, and society at large. The physical, mental, and emotional effects of maltreatment persists long after child maltreatment occurs and results in ongoing costs to society; and*

***WHEREAS**, rates of both allegations and substantiation of child abuse disproportionately impacts BIPOC families, requiring us to address longstanding issues of structural and systemic racism. Society has a moral and ethical obligation to protect families from unnecessary intervention of child welfare and ensure the availability of services and support that strengthen all families; and*

***WHEREAS**, direct investment in social programs for children, families, and community protective factors such as economic supports, community institutions and services, high-quality childcare, policies and educational campaigns that promote equity and inclusion and change social norms to prevent child abuse and provide short and long-term benefits, far outweigh the overall cost of downstream interventions to address the costly results of child maltreatment and trauma; and*

***WHEREAS**, effective prevention efforts succeed because of collaboration between community and public organizations, recognition of the strengths, experiences, and wisdom of families, and accessible, non-stigmatizing services; and*

***WHEREAS**, it is essential to continue to invest in child abuse prevention and raise awareness about child abuse and the need to support all vulnerable children and their families. Healthy children and families create the foundation for communities to thrive.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of South San Francisco does hereby proclaim April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.*

Arpana Kumar, Mayor

Abby Garrone, Vice Mayor

Naethan Bondoc, Councilmember

Linda Dominguez-Ramirez, Councilmember

Sara Torres, Councilmember

Dated: March 18, 2026