



CITY OF DETROIT

MARY SHEFFIELD

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Conrad Mallett, Corporation Counsel, Law Department

Through: Latisha Johnson, Chairperson, Internal Operations Standing Committee

From: Council President Mary Sheffield submitting memorandum relative to

Date: 10/9/2020

RE: Request for Law Department to provide resolution to proclaim November as Family Court Awareness Month

SUMMARY:

November is Family Court Awareness Month. The month of November provides an excellent opportunity for our City of Detroit to demonstrate its support in recognizing the importance of a family court system that prioritizes child safety and acts in the best interest of children.

Please review the information below and prepare an official resolution to proclaim November as Family Court Awareness Month.

Here is the proposed wording for the resolution:

WHEREAS, the mission of the Family Court Awareness Month Committee (FCAMC) is to increase awareness on the importance of a family court system that prioritizes child safety and acts in the best interest of children, and;

WHEREAS, the mission at the FCAMC is fueled by the desire to create awareness and change in the family court system for the conservatively estimated, 58,000 children a year ordered into unsupervised contact with abusive parents, while honoring the hundreds of children who have been reported as murdered during visitation with a dangerous parent, and;

WHEREAS, the mission of the FCAMC is to increase awareness on the importance of empirically-based education and training on domestic violence and child abuse, including emotional, psychological, physical, and sexual abuse, as well as childhood trauma, coercive control, and post separation abuse for judges and all professionals working on cases within the family court system, and;

WHEREAS, the mission of the FCAMC is to increase awareness on the importance of using scientifically valid, evidence-based, treatment programs and services that are proven in terms of safety, effectiveness, and therapeutic value, and;

WHEREAS, the mission at the FCAMC is to educate judges and other family court professionals on evidence-based, peer-reviewed research. Such research is a critical component to making decisions that are truly in the best interest of children. This research includes The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study (co-principal investigator: Vincent Felitti, Kaiser Permanente-CDC); Child Custody Evaluators' Beliefs About Domestic Abuse Allegations (principal investigator: Daniel Saunders, University of Michigan, sponsored by the National Institute of Justice); and Child Custody Outcomes in Cases Involving Parental Alienation and Abuse Allegations (principal investigator: Joan S. Meier, GW Law School, sponsored by the National Institute of Justice), and;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____ hereby declare the Month of NOVEMBER, to be FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH.

If you have any questions, please contact Yvonne Ragland from my office at yvonne.ragland@detroitmi.gov.

Cc: Honorable Colleagues
City Clerk

DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT:

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