

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE

RECOGNIZING APRIL 2021 AS CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH IN MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held virtually during the COVID-19 global pandemic, 517.853.4000, on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski

ABSENT: Trustee Sundland

The following resolution was offered by Clerk Guthrie and supported by Trustee Jackson

WHEREAS, one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before they turn the age of 18.

WHEREAS, a report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds.

WHEREAS, in 2020, Small Talk Children's Advocacy Center in East Lansing provided 159 forensic interviews to child victims of abuse to share their stories, and 1,388 counseling sessions to help children heal from their abuse; and

WHEREAS, Small Talk coordinates a team of professionals in Ingham and Eaton counties to bring healing and justice to families; and

WHEREAS, these trusted partners include local law enforcement, prosecutors, medical professionals, and children's protective services workers; and

WHEREAS, Small Talk is a Nationally-Accredited Children's Advocacy Center who partner's with medical professionals, law enforcement, government agencies, and other non-profits to center children in the child abuse investigation process including the Meridian Township Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Meridian Township Police Department has a specially trained investigator that conducts and coordinates all of our sexual assault reports. The department also conducts annual training for the public on the recognition of behaviors in children that are victims of abuse and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, child abuse is still a taboo topic, we celebrate Child Abuse Prevention Month in April with blue pinwheel gardens to educate the public and raise awareness of this issue; and

WHEREAS, Small Talk worked with volunteers and the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department to plant pinwheel gardens in Meridian Township on April 10, 2021 at the Marketplace on the Green, on the corner of Marsh and Central Park at the solar panels, and in the Meridian Historical Village for the Pinwheels for Prevention Awareness campaign; and

WHEREAS, we are counting on these dedicated professionals and our community to honor those children who use their voices to heal, and those whose voices are still unheard; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, hereby proclaim April 2021 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Meridian Township.

ADOPTED: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski,
Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka

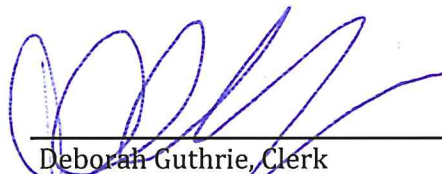
NAYS: None

The resolution passed 6-0

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF INGHAM)



I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, **DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of proceedings taken by the Township Board at a regular meeting held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.



Deborah Guthrie, Clerk
Charter Township of Meridian